



Keystone Health Center breaks ground for expansion in Chambersburg

By **MARCUS RAUHUT** Staff writer

CHAMBERSBURG -- Keystone Health Center broke ground for an expansion project Wednesday in a ceremony coinciding with the anniversary of the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

A \$1.65 million recovery grant will fund the expansion and renovation of the dental and behavioral health practices. Work is to begin next month and should be complete by September.

The dental practice will add five exam rooms and renovate space for smoother patient flow. Behavioral health will add four treatment rooms and two group therapy rooms.

A separate \$11.5 million grant will fund a new building on Fifth Avenue.

Keystone cleared more than a foot of snow to break ground Wednesday in the vacant lot that will be the site of a new urgent care program, a pharmacy and three existing practices that are currently in overcrowded leased space -- pediatrics, women's care and internal medicine.

"Our hope is the urgent care program will be an entry point to establish a medical home for many individuals in our community who are misusing or overusing the emergency department," said Keystone President and CEO Joanne Cochran. "The Keystone pharmacy will provide a new model of delivery of services that will provide discounted medications to many struggling individuals and families dealing with the high cost of medications."

Construction for the new building at 830 Fifth Ave. is scheduled to begin in May and finish in December 2011.

Keystone was started in 1986, initially to serve the migrant farm worker population, but over time the health center's mission has expanded to care for everyone in the community, targeting vulnerable or underserved populations.

"Over the last 1 1/2 years, with the troubled economy, I have seen more and more people in need," said Dr. Steve Flack. "Keystone is able to fill the gap and provide these people with care, regardless of their financial means, so that they don't slip through the cracks."

Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Everette James, who attended Wednesday's groundbreaking, said the recession made the mission of community health centers even more important.

"With more than 1 million people uninsured in Pennsylvania, community health centers like Keystone play a critical role in providing

Advertisement



Bring the Classroom to Your Home
With a Degree Online From Florida Tech

APPLY TODAY!
FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946



Print Powered By 



coverage to Pennsylvanians that would otherwise not have access to care," James said. "Keystone has done a tremendous job of serving uninsured and underinsured people in this community for two decades."

Members of the Obama and Rendell administrations conducted events Wednesday to tout the accomplishments of the stimulus in its first year.

James said recovery grants will allow Keystone to create good-paying jobs and serve more patients.

Keystone Health Center has more than 44,000 patients and currently employs about 325.

The expansion of the dental and behavioral health practices will create seven new positions, including two psychiatrists and a dentist. The new two-story, 4,500-square-foot building will result in 35 new full-time equivalent positions.

A third stimulus grant allows Keystone to add providers and staff to its pediatrics practice, including a pediatrician, a physician assistant and five support staff.

Marcus Rauhut can be reached at mrauhut@publicopinionnews.com or 262-4752.

Keystone's stimulus awards

Keystone Health has been awarded three grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:

- \$439,000 Increased Demand for Services grant to hire a pediatrician, physician assistant and five support staff.

- \$1,649,965 Capital Improvement Program grant to expand and renovate the behavioral health and dental practices. Two psychiatrists, a therapist, one behavioral health support staff, a dentist, dental hygienist and two dental support staff will be hired with non-grant money.

- \$11,515,000 Facility Investment Program grant to construct a new building at 830 Fifth Ave., adjacent to Keystone's 820 Fifth Ave. building. The equivalent of 35 jobs will be created with non-grant money.

Advertisement

**Bring the Classroom to Your Home
With a Degree Online From Florida Tech**

Florida Tech
UNIVERSITY ONLINE

APPLY TODAY!
FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™