



FIRST CHOICE

Community Health Centers

A Brief History of First Choice Community Health Centers

First Choice Community Health Centers (FCCHC) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation headquartered in Lillington, North Carolina celebrating over thirty-eight (38) Years of Community Care as a Federally Qualified Community Health Center. FCCHC was established in 1979 with a mission to “Provide comprehensive healthcare services, with excellence and compassion, for the entire community.” The project began as a collaborative planning effort spearheaded by concerned community leaders. The health center is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors which represents (a) users/patients of health center services, (b) community organizations, government and local businesses, and (c) the health care profession.

FCCHC continues to provide premier services to residents in the service area and remains the primary source of support for the indigent medically underserved. FCCHC has successfully constructed facilities, recruited providers, expanded dental services and implemented community education and wellness programs for residents in the service area. As a section 330(e) Community Health Center, comprehensive primary medical health care services is offered in four free-standing, year-round sites located in the rural communities of Benhaven, Anderson Creek, Angier and Lillington, North Carolina. FCCHC also operates a free-standing, year-round dental clinic in Anderson Creek. The six sites are: Anderson Creek Family Dentistry, Anderson Creek Medical Center, Angier Medical Center, Benhaven Medical Center, and Lillington Health Center. Patient care hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (closed for lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm) and 11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday (closed for lunch from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm). This schedule maximizes accessibility for working/non-working parents with school aged children and all other consumers. In addition, FCCHC will increase access to care with the implementation of two mobile units to provide medical and dental services throughout the entire county. The service area is designated as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA), portions of the area as a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA) and “high need” in North Carolina’s primary care marketplace analysis.

FCCHC targets Medicaid and Medicare recipients, the working poor, the uninsured/underinsured, children, elderly and special populations for services which include adult medicines, obstetrics, pediatrics, dental and essential ancillary services, including nursing, radiology, laboratory and hospitalization; mammography, in-house pharmacies, 340B pharmacy-assistance program, physical therapy, and outreach/referrals for WIC onsite. FCCHC has continued to work closely with other providers, agencies, and organizations in defining and redefining an appropriate role for the health center in addressing community health needs. FCCHC is centrally integrated with the local community by virtue of providing personalized health care and by involvement in more global community health needs and issues. From a health care provider perspective, we are a natural progression in the community continuum of



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care. We served those patients whom other providers and facilities cannot or do not wish to see. Our existence and availability insures that all members of the community have equal access to quality health care. The availability of FCCHC enables the continuum of community medical care to work more efficiently by providing a much-needed option.

FCCHC continues to battle health disparities to include high rates of diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and asthma. Through innovative programs in outreach, education and prevention, FCCHC reaches out and tries to energize the community to meet urgent health needs and promote greater personal responsibility for good health. FCCHC is a community health center that takes a look at issues generally describing Quality of Life. Our goal is simple – keep our organization strong and healthy so we can deliver quality services and information designed to help our patients improve their health.