



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR  
THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON**

**In the Matter of Proclaiming August            )**  
**4-10, 2024 Community Health Center        )**            **Proclamation No. P2024-015**  
**Week in Benton County                            )**

**Community Health Centers: Powering Communities through Caring Connections**

For over 50 years, Community Health Centers have provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive healthcare in our nation’s medically underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on, America’s healthcare system.

As the country’s largest primary care network, Community Health Centers are the healthcare home for over 31.5 million Americans in over 15,000 communities across the country. One in every 11 people in the United States receives their care at a Community Health Center.

Community Health Centers are a critical element of the health system; serving rural, suburban, island, frontier, and urban populations; often providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in their communities. Nationwide, Community Health Centers serve one in every five residents of rural areas.

Community Health Centers serve as beacons of essential resources and support in the face of disasters and pandemics and will continue to respond quickly to care for America’s most vulnerable and underserved communities.

Every day, Community Health Centers develop new approaches to integrating a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, vision, behavioral health, and pharmacy services, to provide comprehensive care, allowing each community member to thrive. Health centers have more than doubled their behavioral health workforce in the last decade to meet Americans’ growing need for behavioral health services.

Community Health Centers are governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring patients are engaged in their healthcare decisions.

Community Health Centers are locally owned and operated small businesses that serve as critical economic engines, helping to power local economies by generating \$85 billion in economic activity and more than \$37 billion in labor income in some of the country's most economically distressed communities.

Community Health Centers nationally support more than 500,000 direct and indirect jobs, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, licensed family therapists, and certified nurse-midwives who work as part of multidisciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient.

The Community Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access, including geography, income, and insurance status – improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare system costs.

Community Health Centers reduce overall costs of care by helping manage patients' chronic conditions, which keeps them out of more expensive healthcare settings like hospital emergency rooms.

Community Health Centers are on the front lines of emerging healthcare crises, providing access to care for our nation's veterans, addressing the opioid epidemic, and responding to public health threats in the wake of natural disasters. Community Health Centers operate over 900 mobile units, providing accessible health services in hundreds of rural and urban communities.

National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to celebrate America's more than 1,400 Community Health Center organizations with over 15,000 service delivery sites, including over 3,600 schools. We honor their dedicated staff, board members, patients, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth since the first health centers opened their doors more than 50 years ago.

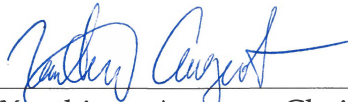
During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Community Health Centers and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of America's healthcare system.

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that August 4 – 10, 2024, is Community Health Center Week in Benton County, and all community members are encouraged to join in this observance.

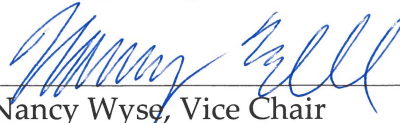
Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Nancy Wyse, Vice Chair



Pat Malone, Commissioner