



Family Health Centers, Inc. Recognizes Employees' Years of Service and Employee of the Year



Mr. Mike Goodwin and
Mrs. Shasonda Amous-Glover

The Family Health Centers, Inc. Employee Appreciation Luncheon was held on May 27, 2022, at our new Training Center in Orangeburg, South Carolina. The speaker for the occasion Mr. Mike Goodwin is a refreshingly funny comedian, speaker, and humor coach.

His signature bow tie represents his expectation-defying brand of comedy

that leaves a variety of audiences - from churches to corporate events to swanky galas - laughing hysterically and completely inspired, without a foul or vulgar word spoken.

A native of Camden, South Carolina, he holds a master's degree in Education from the University of South Carolina, is a veteran of the U.S. Army, and a former primary and secondary education professional. He infuses his varied life experiences into his act, making him relatable to audiences from all walks of life.

Using his ability to merge leadership and laughter, he is a powerful communicator whose primary goal is to leave places and people better than he found them. He's appeared on America's Got Talent, Dry Bar Comedy, Lifetime, BET, Amazon Prime, TBN, Daystar, USA, the Word Network and Circle TV, and has been featured on SiriusXM, the That Sounds Fun Podcast Tour with Annie F. Downs and USO Europe Comedy Tour.

A southern gentleman with a curious mind, love for people, and heart for God, Mr. Goodwin is in a class all his own. He resides in Columbia, SC with his beautiful wife Rozalynn and their two children.

During the luncheon, Family Health Centers, Inc. recognized a special group of employees for their outstanding achievements. The annual Employee Appreciation program identifies employees who have made exceptional contributions while demonstrating Family Health Centers vision and values through their commitment, leadership, and efficiency in meeting customer expectations.

In addition, each year the FHC honors employees based on their years of service to the organization. Employees that have worked at FHC for 5 years or more were then recognized and presented with a plaque. The 2022 Employee Service Award recipients include 5 years, Angela Brown, Mark Dukes, Jaleesa McBride, Amanda Kinsey, Stacey Graham, Rebecca Wright, Brittany Haynes, and April Logan; 10 years, Leon Brunson, Sr.; 15 years, Brenda Shingler, Juanita Solone, Marsha Corbitt, 20 Years, Bismarck Amoah-Apraku, Kesnie Johnson, Sandra Colter, Elvin Cobbs, Judith Cleckley, and 25 Years Susan Bookard. In addition, Elvin Cobbs was selected the Employee of the Year.

— Continued on page 2

Family Health Centers, Inc. Recognizes Employees' Years of Service and Employee of the Year

– continued



Angela Brown
5 YEARS



Stacey Graham
5 YEARS



Brittany Hayes
5 YEARS



Amanda Kinsey
5 YEARS



Jaleesa McBride
5 YEARS



Rebecca Wright
5 YEARS



Marsha Corbitt
15 YEARS



Brenda Shingler
15 YEARS



Bismarck Amoah-Apraku
20 YEARS



Judith Cleckley
20 YEARS



Elvin Cobbs
20 YEARS



Sandra Colter
20 YEARS



Kesnie Johnson
20 YEARS



Susan Bookard
25 YEARS



Elvin Cobbs
Employee of the Year 2021

FHC RECEIVES \$4 MILLION FROM HRSA To Develop Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention-Mobile Health Training Program

Family Health Centers, Inc. recently received a \$4 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop a Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention-Mobile Health Training Program.

The four-year grant will provide \$1 million each year, allowing the participation of 15 nursing students per year.

“The goal of the program is to provide quality health care services to rural and underserved communities through the use of the mobile health unit,” FHC Chief Executive Officer Leon A. Brunson Sr. said.

“The program will also be designed to increase entry to, and completion of, the bachelor of science in nursing degree program by students from underprivileged backgrounds, including racially diverse residents of rural South Carolina who are under-represented in the nursing profession, and promote employment in rural practice post-graduation,” he said.

FHC and Claflin University are partnering to increase and strengthen the diversity, education, and training of the nursing workforce to provide culturally aligned, quality care in rural and underserved areas where there are health care disparities related to access and delivery of care.

This will be achieved by participation in the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention-Mobile Health Training Program of the Bureau of Health Workforce, Division of Nursing and Public Health of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The partnership between FHC and Claflin will emphasize recruitment of racial and ethnic minority students and will provide them with academic and social support to help them complete their degree and obtain their



licensure post-graduation.

The partnership is designed to strengthen the capacity of nursing students to address and manage social determinants of health and improve health equity for racially and ethnically diverse, vulnerable populations in rural and underserved areas.

The partnership will provide students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in nursing degree with enhanced education and training opportunities utilizing

community-based, nurse- led mobile units.

The program will emphasize leadership and effective communication skills, and will use technological methods, including telehealth and the use of an electronic health record to coordinate patient care and ensure accurate and complete documentation of patient services, to deliver quality care in a rural environment.

The NEPQR-MHTP is designed to increase access to care for rural residents while providing a valuable experiential learning platform for the students. This, in turn, is expected to result in an increase in the number of graduating nurses who accept employment in medically underserved and rural areas.

Mobile unit testing, medical case management and prevention education are among the expanded services one of the state's largest community health centers is offering to combat the rising numbers of HIV in the Lowcountry region.

For additional information regarding the program, please call Dr. Pamela Dugeon, FHC Program/Clinical Director, 803-531-6612 or Dr. Shannon Smith, Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Nursing at Claflin University, 803-535-5241.



Dr. Lakeisa Tucker



Mr. William R. Johnson



Ms. Rose V. Pelzer

FHC Welcomes New Board Members

We are also proud to welcome three new board members to Family Health Centers, Inc. Board of Directors. We are appreciative of their commitment to Family Health Centers, Inc., mission and to serving our community.

Dr. Lakeisa Tucker has over 20 years of experience in human services. She obtained her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL in Human Services Administration. She attended the University of South Carolina where she received a master's degree in social work, and Columbia College where she received a bachelor's degree in special education

Dr. Tucker is the acting dean for the College of Graduate and Professional Studies and acting chair for the Department of Human Services at South Carolina State University. She is also an Assistant Professor of Social Work. Her research interests are domestic violence, women's health issues and food insecurity in rural areas and underserved populations.

William R. Johnson was born in Louisville, Mississippi and graduated from Alcorn State University in Lorman, MS. He retired from Holcim Cement Company in 2009 located in Holly Hill, SC; after thirty-seven years of service, where he held several positions including procurement manager. Mr. Johnson was elected as the first African American Mayor of Holly Hill, SC in 2009 and served for twelve years. He is married to Linda Holmes Johnson, and they have two children and two grandchildren.

Ms. Rose V. Pelzer is a native of Santee, South Carolina and resides in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Claflin University and a Master of Education degree from South Carolina State University with a minor in Special Education. A career in education allowed her to serve over 40 years as a public-school teacher and administrator.

CALL TO ACTION: FHC HOLDS HIV SERVICES SYMPOSIUM

Dionne Gleaton | June 5, 2022
Times and Democrat Staff Writer



The Family Health Centers Inc. unveiled its expanded HIV prevention services during its HIV Symposium Luncheon held Wednesday, May 18. Pictured is the HIV services team, including, from left, Almanda Holiday, Medical Case Manager; Antonio Gathers, Lead Prevention Navigator; Selena L. Lowery, Director of HIV Services; Jamaar Wilson, Community Health Specialist; and Rhonda Thomas, Outreach Coordinator.

Family Health Centers Inc. hosted an HIV symposium recently in its new state-of-the-art training center in Orangeburg. Dr. Bambi Gaddist, who serves as a co-director of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention, was the keynote speaker.

Gaddist said it was time to “rekindle the fire” when it came to promoting awareness and education of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

“How is it after 40-something years, we’re finding ourselves in the same predicament we were in, where people are telling us, ‘Oh, they still got AIDS? That’s still a problem? I thought you handled that,’” she said.

“So, when I say rekindle, it means to begin burning again, and I’m not talking about syphilis either. Somewhere we’ve lost it. Somewhere we used to talk about it. What we’re trying to do is rekindle it,” Gaddist said.

Selena L. Lowery, MBA, MA, is director of HIV services at the FHC.

Lowery said the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control’s 2020 epidemiologic profile of HIV and AIDS in its Low Country Public Health Region, of which Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun counties are a part, revealed some alarming statistics.

“What we saw in that was Orangeburg County is the fastest growing county in the Lowcountry in terms of new HIV cases. That resonated with me,” she said.

Orangeburg County had the highest rate of new infections with 32.9 cases per 100,000 people, outpacing Charleston County with its rate of 18.6 cases per 100,000. Bamberg County’s rate of new infections stood at 7.1 per 100,000 people, while Calhoun County’s rate came in at 10.4 cases per 100,000.

FHC’s HIV prevention and care services include free rapid HIV testing; medical case management; STI screenings; mobile unit testing; HIV prevention and education; primary care; and behavioral health.

The facility will also provide pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, medicine taken to prevent getting HIV. The Centers for Disease Control reports that PrEP is highly effective for preventing HIV when taken as prescribed, reducing the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99% and from injection drug use by at least 74%.

“We want to partner with your church health ministry, we want to partner with your schools, we’d like to partner with the hospitals, with other health care professionals within the community – and not just in Orangeburg County,” Lowery said.

Gaddist said too many people still don’t know about PrEP or other preventive measures.

“We have injectable HIV prevention. People don’t have to take a pill every day. They can get an injection, and it can last for months. There’s a lot of other things that are available to use now, but if our people don’t know about it, and we don’t offer it, then what good is it?” she said, noting that health care must be coupled with compassion and love.

“We’ve got stigma. It’s still alive and well. That’s why we’re still in the situation we’re in. People here are

still hearing HIV and saying, ‘I don’t want nothing to do with it. We need to deal with the elephant in the room, and I’m talking about with us.

“We can’t blame the other community. We can’t blame the white community. We got homework to do at home. Sometimes we must talk to people who are sitting in authority, and it isn’t a comfortable place,” Gaddist said.

Lowery was joined at the symposium by her team members, including Almanda Holiday, medical case manager; Antonio Gathers, lead prevention navigator; Jamaar Wilson, community health specialist; and Rhonda Thomas, outreach coordinator. The team also includes nurse practitioner Towanna Enoch, who was absent from the conference.

Lowery said the FHC has two mobile units complete with two exam rooms. One is currently being taken out among Orangeburg, Bamberg, Calhoun, and upper Dorchester counties.

“What we’re looking to do is go into some of the most vulnerable areas to provide access to services that generally have not been available to those communities. We’ve been reaching out in the very, very rural areas,” she said.

Lowery continued, “Now we are offering community-based testing. We try to do it with incentives just to get people used to testing, and we’re trying to put different communities on a three-month rotation.”

She said the goal is to get people accustomed to testing and to get those who don’t have HIV accustomed to hearing the message about preventing it.

Gaddist said the mobile units will be crucial in helping to create health care access, particularly in the South.

“We’ve got more new infections in the South. Fifty-two percent of HIV as of 2019 was in the South. We’re talking about the South where folks have to drive to get to an appointment. We’re talking about why it’s critical to have a mobile unit and take services to people. Let’s talk for real. Getting a ride is not easy when you live in a rural area and you got to drive 45 or 50 miles up and back,” she said.

Gaddist said all hope is not lost, but it will take a concerted effort among the entire community to reignite initiatives which were once standard in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including town hall meetings.

“We’ve got to rekindle what we are doing. We’re trying to approach different spaces, nontraditional partners. At the end, we can fight this. We can do something about this, and I’m convinced that it’s going to require just what’s in this room,” she said.

FHC Chief Executive Officer Leon Brunson said the expanded HIV services were made available through grant funding.

“We’ve got a bunch of grants in for HIV. When I saw this two years ago and looked at the data, we had to do something in the community. So, we started applying for grants. We have over \$2 million to run this program with, and we just applied for another \$3 million to continue work in this area,” he said.

Family Health Centers, Inc. Celebrates National Health Center Week

Highlights from FHC National Health Center Week Activities

PATIENT APPRECIATION WEEK



LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST



Family Health Centers, Inc. Celebrates National Health Center Week — *continued*

AGRICULTURAL WORKER HEALTH CARE



HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS DAY



Family Health Centers, Inc. Celebrates National Health Center Week — *continued*

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR



The Family Health Centers, Inc. (FHC) celebrated National Health Center Week (NHCW) with a series of events on August 7-13, 2022.

The week celebrated and raised awareness to the mission, resilience, and accomplishments of Health Centers in the U.S. The theme for this year's National Health Center Week is "Celebrating Community Health Centers: The Chemistry for Strong Communities."

Health centers provide preventive and primary care services to 29 million people and have continued to do so while facing a global pandemic. Community Health Centers provide care to people who disproportionately suffer from chronic disease and lack access to affordable, quality care. While our approach is community-based and local, collectively we are the backbone of the nation's primary care system.

Community Health Centers lower health care costs to the tune of 24 billion dollars a year, reduce rates of chronic diseases, and stimulate local economies.

Community Health Centers serve as the beacon of strength, service, and care in their communities. In moments of pain and loss, they offer support and love. In moments of triumph, they offer hope and a vision for the future. Let us come together this week to celebrate the roles Community Health Centers have played in both our recent moments of loss and triumph. This National Health Center Week honors those front-line providers, staff, and beloved patients who lost their lives during the (ongoing) COVID-19 pandemic. From the very beginning of the crisis, Community Health Centers began finding innovative ways to provide preventative and primary care to their patients.

DURING THE WEEK OF APPRECIATION, FHC HOSTED THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- Patient Appreciation Day**, Monday, August 8th
- Legislative Breakfast (By Invitation Only)**, Tuesday, August 9th
- Agricultural Worker Health Care Day**, Wednesday, August 10th
- Health Care for the Homeless**, Thursday, August 11th
- Employee Appreciation Day**, Friday, August 12th
- Community Health and Wellness Fair**, Saturday, August 13th

SERVING WITH ‘A LOVING HEART;’ COBB-HUNTER; MANY PEOPLE RELY ON FHC

Martha Rose Brown | August 9, 2022
Times and Democrat Newspaper



“There are many people in this community who rely on Family Health Centers,” said Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg.

She was the keynote speaker at the annual FHC Legislative Breakfast held on Tuesday.

The event took place at the FHC Training Center on Presidential Drive in Orangeburg.

“There are people in Bamberg County and Dorchester, Calhoun and a whole bunch of other places who rely on the services that the Family Health Centers provide,” Cobb-Hunter said.

“It’s critical that these services are available,” she said.

Cobb-Hunter noted the federal support FHC receives and said, “there are opportunities at the state level for us to be supportive and it’s easy to support people when they’re doing things that are helping people and when they’re doing it with an open heart and a loving heart.”

“When I think about the community and when I think about what Family Health Centers has meant to this community and the other communities in the four-county area, it’s important that these services be here. What I am committed to, and hope you feel the same way, is making sure these services are always going to be here,” she said.

Cobb-Hunter urged those in attendance to pay attention to federal and state health care legislation.

“When we look at debt and what causes people to go into debt, what we know is that health care costs are the single-largest contribution to debt that people are experiencing,” she said.

She also urged those in attendance to have compassion for the patients they treat.

“I hope you care about the patients you see. My latest experience has shown me that doctors don’t always care about patients. What they care about is that paper and the change,” she said.

ALSO AT THE EVENT:

- **Family Health Centers CEO Leon Brunson** reminded the crowd, “We’re training our own to serve our own.”

Brunson announced that Claflin University, in partnership with FHC, is training fifteen bachelor of science nurses.

The nurse practitioner students will conduct their clinical rotations at the FHC sites. “We’re hoping all six of them will remain in our community,” Brunson said.

“We have started the residential program for family medicine in this community,” Brunson said.

“We’re trying to take the kids from high school all the way through to become a doctor – our kids in our communities to come here and work in our community. We will make sure, if they obtain a loan, the loan will cancel out. They don’t have to pay us a penny. All they must do is come back to the community and work,” he added.

Brunson said, “We want our children to be a part of our communities so they can take care of their parents and other siblings. So, we’re embarking on something unique at Family Health Centers. ... Each one of those jobs will start at a minimum of \$80,000 annually.”

Funding for this effort is made possible through a grant of \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- **S.C. Primary Health Care Association CEO Lathan Johnson Woodard** presented a proclamation recognizing the work of health care centers in the state.

Woodard noted that health care centers in the state saw 425,000 medical patients in 2020 and FHC saw 25,000 patients the same year.

- **Orangeburg County Council Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr.** presented a proclamation recognizing National Health Center Week.

SPEAKER: COMMUNITY HAS ROLE IN CARE

Dionne Gleaton | August 28, 2022

Times and Democrat Newspaper



Mr. Leon A. Brunson, Sr., FHC Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Kenneth Rogers, State Director of S.C. Department of Mental Health

The state director of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health offered the community a lesson on how to take care of each other, particularly those dealing with mental health issues.

Dr. Kenneth Rogers was the keynote speaker at the Family Health Centers Inc.'s first Mental Health Symposium on Thursday.

"Mental illness doesn't just show up out of the blue. Many times, it's actually triggered by things that happened in people's lives. I believe that God actually placed us on this earth to take care of each other," Rogers said.

"From the beginning of time, it was his plan, that we're all there to be our brother's and our sister's keeper. So, my question to you is: How are we going to do that in our lives and in the lives of the people around us?" he said.

He said the absence of illness is not exactly wellness and that the community needs to spend more time providing wrap-around services to support those struggling with mental health issues.

"We need to get to a place as a community where we take care of each other. That community could be a church, it could be a neighborhood, it could be an organization. It could be any place that begins to wrap their heads around taking care of each other," Rogers said.

"I did begin to think about this whole idea of: How do we transform the lives of individuals and families? How do we restore hope when things look dark? How do we transform insanity to sanity? How do we become an advocate for those who have mental health issues?" he said.

Rogers continued, "That's where we get this whole idea of healthcare and health care. When we think of healthcare first, we think of somebody that's in need of treatment. In other words, you have a sickness of some kind, you come into a building, we supply something to you, and you get better versus health care or really caring for your health in a much greater way.

"How many of us do things to take care of ourselves? Sunshine, ... a little exercise, enough water, friendships, engagement, finding things that give you meaning in life. That's all a part of that second health care."

He said medications cannot treat everything and religion and mental health aren't always complementary, but can also be problematic because sometimes it's hard to sort out where things fit on one side.

"Generally, when we think about characters in the Bible, we generally don't think about the ones that are depressed, the ones that are psychotic, the ones that actually got themselves in all kinds of problems because of post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma and all kinds of things that exist," Rogers said.

He continued, "I realize that you always must question what you know that's right in front of you because sometimes it doesn't always make sense. Everybody that has mental health issues aren't poor, they're not broke and they're not alone. Some live in great families."

Held under the theme "Breaking the Stigma," last week's event aimed to promote mental health awareness and highlight stigmas that discourage mental health treatment.

"Despite advancements in psychiatry, mental health treatment has continued to be stigmatized today. Community engagement and open dialogue about the importance of emotional wellness are essential to dispelling stigmas toward mental health issues and mental health treatment," said Dr. Stacey Graham, FHC's director of behavioral health.

"Stigmas are disempowering and compromise access to treatment, diagnosis, and successful health outcomes. Community systems of care consist of social service agencies, health care facilities, education entities, law enforcement and faith-based organizations which can constitute the gateway for connecting individuals to mental health services," Graham said.

Hope Burch and Terri Neals provided personal testimonials on the importance of taking care of your mental health. Burch lost her son, Brandon, 21, to suicide in 2021, while Neals lost her son, Terrence, 26, six years ago in a car accident.

"The loss of a child is one that's just terrible, hard to bear. I've come a long way," Neals said.

Burch said, "My son lives within me even in his absence. ... Let's take the stigma off of mental health because it is very much needed."

She stressed to audience members that they should never give up on their family members who may be going through mental health issues.

The Rev. Jerome Anderson, the pastor of Unity Fellowship Community Church of Orangeburg, said Rogers' message of caring resonated with him.

"I thought he said a whole lot. Basically, what he talked about is what we're trying to do with community action planners. That's the transformation of a community to tap into mental health, to also to give a different definition of mental health that includes people with things like anxiety, like depression so that you can take the stigma off mental health," Anderson said.

"The gist of it for me was caring, having a caring community and a community that, first, can identify people with issues and also be there, especially as a faith community, for them. So, I think things went well," he said.

Monkeypox: Get the Facts

- Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus
- Monkeypox can make you sick including a rash or sores (pox), often with an earlier flu-like illness
- Monkeypox can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact including:
 - Direct contact with monkeypox rash, sores or scabs
 - Contact with objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
 - Through respiratory droplets or oral fluids from a person with monkeypox
- This contact can happen during intimate sexual contact including:
 - Oral, anal, and vaginal sex
 - Hugging, massage, or mutual masturbation
 - Kissing and talking closely
 - Touching fabrics and objects during sex that were used by a person with monkeypox, such as bedding, towels and sex toys
- We know the virus can be spread in fluid or pus from monkeypox sores, and are trying to better understand if virus could be present in semen or vaginal fluids



What Are the Symptoms?

- Early flu-like symptoms of monkeypox can include:
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Muscle aches and backache
 - Swollen lymph nodes
 - Chills
 - Exhaustion



- A rash or sores, sometimes located on or near the genitals or anus, but sometimes in other areas like the hands, feet, chest or face – sores will go through several stages before healing
- Sores may be inside the body, including the mouth, vagina, or anus
- Some people experience a rash or sores first, followed by other symptoms and some only experience a rash or sores
- Monkeypox can be spread from the time symptoms start until all sores have healed and a fresh layer of skin has formed – this can take several weeks

If You Have a New or Unexplained Rash, Sores, or Other Symptoms...

- See your healthcare provider – if you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a public health clinic near you
- When you see a healthcare provider for possible monkeypox, remind them that this virus is circulating in the community
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out



If You or Your Partner Have Monkeypox...

- Follow the treatment and prevention recommendations of your healthcare provider
- Avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until all your sores have healed and you have a fresh layer of skin formed.



For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/monkeypox

FHC OFFERING COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN AGES 6 MONTHS AND OLDER



The Family Health Centers, Inc. is now offering the Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine to children 6 months of age and older. Vaccinations are offered at all our satellite locations Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at our ride-up/walk-in sites. No appointments are necessary. Walk-ins are welcome. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are free regardless of insurance.

Children 6 months to 4 years of age get a smaller vaccine dose than children ages 5 to 11 years. For children ages 5 to 11 years, each 0.2mL dose contains 10 mcg of the Moderna vaccine. For children ages 6 months to 4 years, each 0.2mL dose contains 3 mcg of the Moderna vaccine. Booster shots are currently not authorized for children in this age group.

Vaccines are highly effective against severe illness. The best protection against COVID-19 is prevention. Make sure you and your family are up to date on vaccines and boosters. That means everyone 6 months and older should be vaccinated, and everyone 5 years old and up should have a booster vaccine when eligible.

FHC is also offering the Paxlovid Covid-19 treatment to qualifying individuals.

Paxlovid is indicated for the treatment of mild-moderate COVID-19 in adults and children (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg) with a positive COVID-19 test who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. People must have symptoms of COVID-19 and those symptoms must have started within the last five days.

Paxlovid is an oral antiviral pill that can be taken at home to help keep high-risk patients from getting so sick that they need to be hospitalized.

For more information about Covid-19 vaccines and Paxlovid Covid-19 treatment, call 803-531-6900 or visit our website www.myfhc.org.

FHC Partners with SC Thrive to Provide Benefit Services

The Family Health Centers, Inc. has partnered with South Carolina Thrive to provide benefit services to all individuals who are seeking resources.

SC Thrive is a statewide nonprofit program offering solutions to South Carolinians in need of accessing resources but facing a multitude of barriers.

FHC staff is trained to connect individuals to resources such as applying for Medicaid, Snap Benefits, a replacement social security card, and registering to vote. Our benefits' screenings help you find resources for which you may be eligible. All information provided to our staff will be kept confidential.

Applications can be completed in person at one of Family Health Centers seven locations. For more information, please call or visit your local Family Health Center's office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or visit our website, www.myfhc.org.



FHC OFFERING MAMMOGRAM AND ULTRASOUND



The Family Health Centers, Inc. will soon be offering in-house Mammograms and Ultrasound screenings.

FHC will be offering a 3-D breast imaging technology. The new diagnostic tool in the fight against breast cancer helps with early detection in women who have dense tissue, where cancer can be harder to spot. The new Digital Breast Tomosynthesis (DBT) technology uses three-dimensional (3-D) imaging, which is the key to detecting tumors. Two-dimensional imaging with ultrasound was the standard, but new 3-D imaging allows for more sensitivity in finding tumors. The system is designed to enhance the consistency, reproducibility, and sensitivity of whole breast ultrasound, demonstrating improvement in cancer detection in women with dense breasts without prior breast intervention.

Ultrasound is a noninvasive imaging test that shows structures inside your body using high intensity sound waves.

During an ultrasound, a healthcare provider passes a device called a transducer or probe over an area of your body or inside a body opening. The

provider applies a thin layer of gel to your skin so that the ultrasound waves are transmitted from the transducer through the gel.

The probe converts electrical current into high-frequency sound waves and sends the waves into your body's tissue. You can't hear the sound waves.

Sound waves bounce off structures inside your body and back to the probe, which converts the waves into electrical signals. A computer then converts the pattern of electrical signals into real-time images or videos, which are displayed on a computer screen nearby. The following ultrasound exams will be offered including abdomen, small parts, OB/GYN, carotid, lower extremities DVT, and breast.

In addition, the Family Health Centers, Inc. will also offer in-house X-Ray screenings. All screenings will be offered Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Family Health Centers new Training Center located at 1445 Presidential Drive in Orangeburg, SC. 29115. To schedule your next screening, call 803.531.6900 or visit our website at www.myfhc.org.

SHARANDA McCAULEY APPOINTED QUALITY COORDINATOR



Sharanda McCauley joined the Family Health Centers, Inc. as the Quality Coordinator. Sharanda graduated from South Carolina State University where she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She attained her Master of Science Degree in Public Health/Epidemiology.

Throughout the tenure of her career, Sharanda has worked at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as a Health Inspector inspecting hospitals, nursing homes, dialysis clinics, residential treatment facilities, and abortion clinics throughout South Carolina. Mrs. McCauley has had the opportunity to work as the Senior Consultant in the Cancer Division where she created, coordinated, and facilitated DHEC's first ever Operation Save a Life at Brittle Bank Park in Charleston, SC. At this event, the community had access to free cancer, HIV, and cardiovascular screenings along with other health and safety resources. Through collaborations with internal divisions and partners found in the community together they helped those in the community find a medical home. At the Operation Save a Life event, Mayor Tecklenburg agreed to sign a Proclamation for efforts to continue in the community. She has also worked at DHEC's Bureau of Laboratories as the State's Biosafety Officer where she had the opportunity to travel all over the United States for training in addition to DHEC and CDC training on highly infectious diseases including Ebola and Zika.

As a result, she held four regional workshops in SC, where she discussed the various aspects of creating a comprehensive biosafety plan that includes biosafety/safety risk assessments and how together plans can be developed and implemented. She reminded everyone that we must be initiative-taking, not reactive when it comes to both highly infectious diseases and emerging infectious diseases like Ebola or Zika to name a few. We cannot accept complacency. Sharanda has trained staff from the Bureau of Laboratories providers and nurses throughout South Carolina. Sharanda's apothegm is to take care of the home first (employees), which is where it starts when it comes to health, risks, safety, and quality care to serve and affect our communities.

In her new position with FHC, Sharanda feels that her education along with her experience has prepared her for what the FHC expects of her as the Quality Coordinator. "Working with the FHC and the changes that are forthcoming to improve the health of our community is the train she wants to be on. Sharanda is looking forward to each step we make along the way to educate and help co-workers and the community. In doing so, staying true to FHC's mission to promote health and provide quality comprehensive care to all with courtesy. I feel confident, as a team, that we will reach our destination with more Family Health Center facilities planted throughout the state of SC to serve South Carolinians.

FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, INC. WELCOMES NEW PROVIDERS AND STAFF MEMBERS



Dr. Brigitte Jahoor joined FHC as the Pediatrics at the Denmark Family Health Center. Dr. Jahoor was born and raised in the Caribbean Island of Trinidad and Tobago. She attended medical school at St George's University in Grenada, completed clinical rotations in Brooklyn New York, and graduated in 2019 with a medical degree. She recently completed a 3-year pediatric residency training at The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, New York where she was exposed to a diverse community and wide range of diseases in the pediatric population. Dr. Jahoor enjoys warm weather, the beach, traveling and spending time with friends & family. She loves working with children and is excited to be a part of Family Health Centers, Inc.



Dr. Sadesha M. Lee has joined FHC as a pharmacist in the St. Matthews Medical Center Pharmacy. Dr. Lee is a native of Holly Hill, SC. She graduated in 2014 from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences. In 2021, she graduated from South University College of Pharmacy with a Doctorate in Pharmacy. She is excited to start and grow her pharmacy career with FHC. In her spare time, she loves cooking, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.



Leigh Madero joined FHC as the Ultrasound Technician. Ms. Madero is an experienced registered ultrasound technician with twenty-eight years' experience. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from St. Joseph's University and her Master of Science degree in Human Resources from Keller Graduate School of Management and a certificate in Leadership and Supervision. She has extensive knowledge and in her career she has also held the following positions ultrasound instructor/clinical coordinator and department supervisor. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, horses, and all the dogs on her farm. Ms. Madero is extremely passionate about dogs and will be starting a dog rescue/sanctuary hopefully sometime this year. She is excited about joining FHC and getting the ultrasound department up and running.

FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, INC. ANNOUNCES AND WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Dr. Pamela Dugeon has joined FHC as the Program/Clinical Director for the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention-Mobile Health Training Program. Dr. Dugeon has been a nurse for approximately 28 years. She graduated from Clemson University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from South University in 2008, and Grand Canyon University in 2022. Throughout her nursing career, she has been blessed to serve in a variety of roles in the acute care, community health, and academic setting. One of the most rewarding aspects of her journey has included introducing and mentoring young women and men to the field of nursing. Dr. Dugeon is elated over the opportunity to continue this passion with Family Health Centers, Inc. and looks forward to building a program that will benefit many people in this community.



Sharon Murray, a native of Branchville, SC has joined the staff as an LPN for the St. Matthews satellite location. Ms. Murray has been a nurse for 7 years. She graduated from Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College with an Associate degree in Licensed Practical Nursing. She also attended South Carolina State University. Ms. Murray currently lives in Orangeburg and she enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



Brice Tonde joins FHC as an Accountant in the Finance department. He grew up in Burkina Faso. He is a graduate of Georgia Southern University where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting.

Prior to joining FHC, Brice worked in accounting firms in Georgia and South Carolina where he gained experience primarily in auditing. He hopes to learn and will strive to contribute to the best of his abilities to FHC's team.

FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, INC. WELCOME NEW PROVIDERS AND STAFF MEMBERS



Debra Whetstone has joined FHC as the Security Guard. Ms. Whetstone is a native of Orangeburg, SC but moved to New York in 1995 where she attended Monroe College in the Bronx, NY and studied Office System Technology. After moving back to South Carolina, Ms. Whetstone began her career in Law Enforcement and she served as a Detention Officer, Correctional Officer, and a Security Captain for Richland County. She has held other job titles throughout her career including, Human Resource Coordinator, Medical Records Clerk, and Certified Nursing Assistant. She is proud and honored to be a part of the Family Health Centers, Inc. Security Department.



Denetrin Haynes joined FHC as a Financial Service Representative/Mobile Driver. She is a native of Harlem, New York and moved to South Carolina in 2013.

Ms. Haynes attended Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, where she obtained her certificate as a nursing aide. In 2022, she attended Driving Academy and received her commercial class B commercial driver's license with passenger endorsement. She serves her community as the transportation driver at her church, Unity Fellowship Community Church located in Orangeburg, SC. She enjoys singing, reading, and spending time with her family. She is married with four children and one grandson.

Ms. Haynes is honored to be an expansion of the impact that FHC has committed itself to the community in such a significant way.



FAMILY
HEALTH
CENTERS, INC.

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR #1 PRIORITY

PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR OVER 50 YEARS



SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Adult Medicine
Pediatrics
OB/GYN
Podiatry
Dental
Vision
Annual Wellness Visit
Medication Therapy

Behavioral Health
School-Based Telehealth
Pharmacy
Laboratory
X-Rays
Mammogram Services
Ultrasound Services
Family Medicine

Hypertension Management
Program
Chronic Care Management
Pain Management
Diabetes Management Program
HIV Prevention and Care Services
Agricultural Worker Health
Program

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS AND WALK INS

Accepting all
insurances including
Medicare and Medicaid

**Discount fees available
based on household
income*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL: 803-531-6900 or 866-506-9342



Family Health Centers, Inc.

3310 Magnolia Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115

FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Family Health Centers, Inc.

3310 Magnolia Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-531-6900

PHARMACY: 803-531-6940

Denmark Family Health Center

5616 Carolina Highway
Denmark, SC 29042
803-780-7003

PHARMACY: 803-793-4282

Family Health Center at Holly Hill

922 Holly Street
Holly Hill, SC 29059
803-759-3069

Norfield Medical Center

7061 Norway Road
Neeses, SC 29107
803-813-1325

PHARMACY: 803-263-5451

St. George Medical Center

401 Ridge Street
St. George, SC 29477
843-636-6080

PHARMACY: 843-636-9130

St. Matthews Medical Center

558 Chestnut Street
St. Matthews, SC 29135
803-655-4099

PHARMACY: 803-874-1095

Community Medical Center

10278 Old #6 Hwy.
Vance, SC 29163
803-962-6017

PHARMACY: 803-492-8432

Dental Mobile Unit

3310 Magnolia Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-747-1929

Optometry Mobile Unit

3310 Magnolia Street
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-707-0445

Denmark-Olar Elementary

1459 Soloman Blatt Blvd.
Denmark, SC 29042

Denmark-Olar Middle School

45 Green Street
Denmark, SC 29042

Denmark-Olar High School

197 Viking Circle
Denmark, SC 29042

St. Matthews K-8 School

135 Saints Avenue
St. Matthews, SC 29135

Sandy Run K-8 School

450 Old Swamp Road
Swansea, SC 29160

Calhoun County High School

150 Saints Avenue
St. Matthews, SC 29135

www.myfhc.org

Follow us at www.twitter.com/myfhc and like us at www.facebook.com/familyhealthcentersinc