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Council of Community Clinics (CCC) Announces Progress in Helping Patients with Diabetes and Hypertension

CCC to introduce Henry N. Tuttle as its new President/CEO and present its findings at an Open House on Wednesday, August 13, 2014

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San Diego, CA, August 11, 2014: Community clinics and health centers in San Diego and Imperial counties are making significant progress in increasing the percentage of patients who have better control over their blood pressure and diabetes, the Council on Community Clinics (CCC) announced today.

The CCC plans to share detailed findings from the recent achievements of its members in hypertension and diabetes at a public Open House Wednesday, Aug. 13, from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm, during National Health Center Week. Another highlight of the event will be a reception for CCC's new Chief Executive Officer, Henry N. Tuttle, who joined the organization in July 2014, coming from five years as President/CEO of Manet Community Health Center in Quincy, MA.

The Open House at 7535 Metropolitan Drive, San Diego, comes at a time when community clinics and health centers nationwide are under increasing pressure to take the lead in providing coordinated primary and preventive care for chronic health conditions aimed at improving health outcomes and containing costs.

"We want to thank our members' teams for their hard work in achieving these impressive results in hypertension and diabetes management, which are ongoing," said Tuttle. "We also want to thank our funders and community partners for believing in our work as community clinics and health centers increasingly move from providing sickness care to wellness care."

Findings in the hypertension review showed that 12 out of 14 (86%) CCC-member health centers reporting in performed better than the Healthy People

2020 goal for blood pressure control from 2011-2013. (Healthy People 2020 is a federal effort to provide science-based, 10-year national objectives for improving the health of all Americans.) Over 53,000 patients with hypertension were reached through this initiative.

Diabetes findings showed that 13 of 14 (93%) of CCC-member centers did better than the Medi-Cal managed care weighted average for diabetes control. In addition, one center met the Healthy People 2020 objectives, while two others were within two percentage points of that goal. Over 35,000 patients with diabetes were reached through this initiative. The initiative received funding from the Bureau of Primary Health Care of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Agency (HRSA), and Kaiser Permanente Southern California Community Benefit.

"Community Clinics and Health Centers are a catalyst for positive change in addressing our nation's most pervasive chronic health conditions," said Kevin Mattson, who serves as Chair of the CCC Board of Directors and is President and CEO of the San Ysidro Health Center. "National Health Center Week is an opportunity for us to celebrate this progress and spread the word that community health centers are a critical solution to enhancing health care access and outcomes."

The CCC-member centers achieved their results in hypertension and diabetes through several interrelated initiatives. They included training for direct care staff, rigorous follow-up with patients who were not meeting target numbers, sharing best practices, linking patients to both primary care doctors and teams, and using new technology for more accurate health measurement.

"By integrating electronic health records, coordinated care and clinical protocols rooted in evidence-based guidelines, our Health Centers are showing themselves to be epicenters of quality chronic care management and preventive care pathways," said Jim Schultz, MD, CCC's Medical Director who is also Chief Medical Officer at Neighborhood Healthcare in Escondido.

The theme of National Health Center Week, August 10-16, is "Celebrating Health Centers: Local Engines for Healthier Communities." The CCC Open House Aug. 13 will showcase each of the 16 CCC members and their individual achievements in bringing primary and preventive care to more people each year, as well as having a positive economic impact in their communities.

For information or to register for the CCC Open House, visit www.ccc-sd.org.

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About Council of Community Clinics

Founded in 1977, the Council of Community Clinics (CCC) represents 16 community clinics and health centers operating more than 100 sites in San Diego, Imperial and Riverside counties. Together, CCC members serve over 720,000 patients with 2 million encounters annually. A private, non-profit association, the CCC has two subsidiaries: Council Connections, a national Group Purchasing Organization with over 3,000 members, and Community Clinics Health Network, which manages collaborative programs and services. In 2014, for the fourth consecutive year, the CCC has been named among the "Best Places to Work" in San Diego by San Diego Business Journal.