



For Release: Friday, January 9, 2015

Contact: Marcus Walton, WCCUSD, 510-205-3092
Kate Fowlie, CCHS, 925-250-2371

New Health Clinic to Offer Health and Dental Services at Richmond's Kennedy High School

RICHMOND – A new community health clinic opening soon at Kennedy High School will provide students and other children and youth in the community with affordable access to health and dental services.

A ribbon cutting was held today for the clinic, which is a collaboration between Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) and the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD). The clinic is expected to begin seeing patients in the next month and will serve 340 youth monthly. Services will include physical and well-child exams, immunizations, reproductive healthcare, non-urgent care, and dental exams, cleanings and filling.

While CCHS operates other school-based health clinics in the district, the new facility is unique because it will serve both Kennedy students and people aged 18 and under from the surrounding community. The project was made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, which helped fund the renovation of a classroom into a clinic.

The full-service clinic will replace a CCHS mobile health van that visits the school twice a week. Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia said the expanded clinic brings needed care to the area.

"It's an important asset for South Richmond residents," Supervisor Gioia said. "I'm glad the new clinic will mean more children and youth will have access to quality healthcare."

Locating clinics in schools is a model that works, said CCHS Director William Walker, MD.

"This clinic allows us to deliver critical health services directly to our community, where our children and youth live and go to school," Dr. Walker said.

WCCUSD and CCHS have collaborated for more than 20 years to deliver healthcare in local schools. The expansion of these services is part of the district's commitment to Full Service Community Schools, an educational model that emphasizes delivery of vital health and social resources on campus to ensure students are prepared to learn.

"This partnership defines the Full Service Community Schools concept, which seeks to ensure our students and their families have the resources necessary to be successful in the classroom and the community. We know that our students at Kennedy and the community will benefit from having this clinic available," WCCUSD board President Todd Groves said. "We thank Supervisor John Gioia and CCHS Director Dr. William Walker for their support in making this clinic a reality."

The clinic at Kennedy High will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and will offer serve community members who are 18 and under who do not have access to private health insurance. All of the district's six comprehensive high schools have school-based health clinics providing services to students. Kennedy High School has 866 students enrolled, with more than 85 percent eligible for free and reduced lunch.

CCHS operates more than 40 school-based health clinics throughout Contra Costa County. For more information, visit: <http://cchealth.org/school-based-clinic/>

###