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News

Relaxing environment unveiled at downtown Bristol health center (Video)

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BRISTOL — The smell of the fresh paint on the walls and new carpet invited people in during Monday's grand opening of the Community Health Center of Bristol.

Soft pastel yellow and purple paint covered the walls of the new 6,500-square-foot facility located at 395 N. Main St. State Rep. John Larson said the colors of the facility emanated relaxation.

The \$1.25 million health care center is equipped with state-of-the-art medical exam rooms, a behavioral health group room, a dental hygiene room and an on-site Quest Laboratory.

"The center also features state-of-the-art technology, and more access to ensure community members continue to receive the highest level of health care," said Yvette Highsmith Francis, director for CHC's Hartford and New Haven County sites. "This new site will better reflect the quality of our providers and the innovative technologies we use to improve our patients' experience."

The center's electronic health records technology allows medical, dental and behavioral health providers at CHC to efficiently communicate with one another and provide a higher level of integrated care, said Highsmith Francis.

She said the difference between the CHC and the hospital is the center's ability to provide patients with a "medical home."

"In order for patients to have the best preventative health care they need to have an established medical home," said Highsmith Francis. "CHC is a primary care facility."

The center does not rely on other agencies for patients, said Highsmith Francis; the majority of their patients come from word-of-mouth or through their door-to-door campaigning.

"Since our opening in 2010 we already have more than 2,000 Bristol patients," she said.

Although the center only provides limited specialist care, they work closely with Bristol Hospital and private specialists to provide referrals to their patients.

Larson, Mayor Art Ward, and state representatives Whit Betts and Elizabeth Boukus were special guests at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"This is about jobs and they are central to our economic growth," said. Larson at the event.

The center will create 9.5 permanent healthcare jobs and 25 construction jobs, with 15 being full-time and 10 being part-time.

For more information on the CHC, visit www.chc1.com or call 860-347-6971.

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