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**COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC. AND U.S. SEN. CHRIS DODD  
BREAK GROUND ON NEW  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF MIDDLETOWN  
New facility to double CHC's capacity to meet growing need for primary care services**

**MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (November 22, 2010)** – The Community Health Center of Middletown will soon have a new home – a three-story, 48,000-square-foot, environmentally-friendly facility located at 675 Main St. Today, U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) broke ground at the corner of Main and Grand Streets, formerly a parking lot owned by the City of Middletown.

“Community Health Center, Inc. and community health centers like it are the backbone of our state’s healthcare system,” said U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd. “These are challenging economic times, and community health centers like the one that will be built here in Middletown are so important. Regardless of an individual’s ability to pay, community health centers are providing high-quality health care to all. Just by walking through the door, Connecticut families have access to primary care treatment, management of chronic disease and critical prevention activities.

“That is why, during Senate consideration of the Affordable Care Act, I worked hard to ensure that community health centers would receive the resources they need to continue providing comprehensive, affordable care to those who need it the most,” continued Sen. Dodd. “And I am proud to be here today to break ground on this important project that will be receiving \$7 million in federal funding because of this landmark law.”

In October, CHC received \$7 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Affordable Care Act for the new building. Additional funding came from the State Bond Commission, which approved \$2.5 million in funding in July that had been authorized by the General Assembly (HB 7004, Sec. 34 (d)). The City of Middletown, a key partner in the project, supported the project by transferring the land for the new facility to CHC. Remaining funding for the \$17 million project comes from private financing sources.

“With health reform now in effect, community health centers across the country will experience an increased demand for primary and preventive care,” said Mark Masselli, president and CEO of Community Health Center, Inc. “The new facility positions us to meet this critical need in our community. We will be able to expand and build upon the world-class health care we offer, as well as extend our services to approximately 6,000 more uninsured and underserved area residents.”

CHC has retained the services of Robert Olson & Associates Architects and PAC Group, LLC for the design and construction of the facility. The 14-month project has created 45 full-time construction jobs, and the expanded space will allow for 21 additional full-time employees, including six health care providers.

Since its inception in 1972, CHC has operated in its original home and clinical site at 635 Main St. The new facility will replace three antiquated and overcrowded buildings with limited parking, no elevators and minimal handicap-accessible entrances.

The new center, designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, will bring all services under one roof, enabling CHC of Middletown to deliver care more efficiently and to improve care

effectiveness and health outcomes by increasing the number of patients who receive fully integrated medical, dental and behavioral health care from 31 to 75 percent.

“This new, state-of-the-art center will better reflect the quality of CHC’s providers, the high level of care we provide and the innovative technologies we use to improve our patients’ experience and the ways we communicate with them,” said Dr. Carl Lecce, CHC of Middletown’s on-site medical director and a provider with CHC for more than 30 years.

These technologies include electronic health records; Patient Portal, which allows patients to access their medical records, prescription information and additional information from their computers; and Language Line, which allows providers to communicate with patients in 170 languages.

The Community Health Center of Middletown serves as a hub for an extensive network of CHC services, including four comprehensive school-based health services, homeless shelter clinics, a domestic violence shelter, community-based case management services and family wellness and support services. On-site services include primary medical care and behavioral health services for all ages; obstetrics, pre-natal and women’s health services; lactation support and counseling; nutrition counseling; certified diabetes education; dental care; HIV treatment and support services; podiatry; and assistance with application for public insurance programs and other support services.

**About Community Health Center, Inc.**

Since 1972, Community Health Center, Inc. has been one of the leading healthcare providers in the state of Connecticut, building a world-class primary health care system committed to caring for uninsured and underserved populations. CHC is focused on improving health outcomes for its more than 100,000 patients as well as building healthy communities. Currently, CHC delivers service in 173 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. For more information, visit [che1.com](http://che1.com).

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