



Connecting Communities Who Care

TENNESSEE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS TO DEMONSTRATE TECHNOLOGY THAT CONNECTS PATIENTS WITH CARE

NASHVILLE, TN— On Tuesday, April 1, 2008, the Tennessee Primary Care Association will hold a demonstration of the telehealth technology used in the state's Community Health Centers (CHC) for state legislators, community leaders and media. The demonstration will take place at 7:00am in the Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center at 1035 14th Avenue North, Nashville, 37208 (www.mwchc.org). The telehealth technology is used to connect rural and underserved patients with the medical care they need through a broadband network.

"Community Health Centers have been an invaluable resource as we work to expand the availability of affordable health care to all parts of the state," said Governor Phil Bredesen. The demonstration will showcase a variety of different services that providers can perform using the telehealth technology. For example, a doctor can perform a retinal eye scan, a dermatologist can conduct a skin exam and a pharmacist can give a consultation. Even behavioral health services can be provided, such as counseling and depression screenings.

The technology is the result of several grants from the federal government and collaboration among several organizations, including Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA), Community Health Network (CHN), and the Governor's eHealth Council.

"The Community Health Network and the Tennessee Primary Care Association have been great partners with the state in our efforts to improve access to health care in Tennessee," said Dave Goetz, Tennessee Commissioner of Finance & Administration. "They offer Tennesseans in rural and underserved areas an affordable option for primary care and, with the Telehealth Network, have also opened up the possibilities for patients to see a specialist from an urban area without having to travel to the city."

About TPCA:

Tennessee Primary Care Association (TPCA) is a nonprofit corporation connecting Tennesseans with a health care home, especially the medically underserved. Since its inception in 1976, TPCA committed to 1) identifying unmet needs and gaps in service access, 2) developing systems of care, 3) advocating for resources, and 4) promoting awareness of Community Health Centers. Membership includes 34 nonprofit primary care clinics across the state operating over 150 sites providing comprehensive medical care.

About CHN:

Community Health Network has been providing Information Technology services to Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) clinics in the state of Tennessee since 2001. Their goal is to provide the necessary services for healthcare computing environments in a controlled manner while maintaining the individuality of the clinics they serve.

About eHealth Council:

Governor Phil Bredesen established his statewide eHealth Advisory Council to coordinate among eHealth initiatives across the state with a common goal, the successful development and implementation of electronic medical records (EMRs).

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