



Capital Park
2365 Innis Road
Columbus, OH 43224
P: (614) 416-4325
F: (614) 536-1994

Chantry
5560 Chantry Drive
Columbus, OH 43016
P: (614) 235-5555
F: (614) 536-1994

Mount Carmel East
5969 East Broad Street Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43213
P: (614) 235-5555
F: (614) 536-1994

Whitehall
882 South Hamilton Road
Columbus, OH 43213
P: (614) 235-5555
F: (614) 536-1994

Whitehall-Yearling High School
675 South Yearling Road Suite 100
Whitehall, OH 43213
P: (614) 235-5555
F: (614) 536-1994

Jenn Schehl
Heart of Ohio Family Health
614-578-6196
jschehl@hofhc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2/13/20

**Heart of Ohio Family Health to Open Franklin County's First School Based Health Center
with Whitehall City Schools**

Whitehall, OH: On March 16, 2020, central Ohio-based Heart of Ohio Family Health will open Franklin County's first school-based health center at Whitehall-Yearling High School (675 S. Yearling Rd.). To celebrate the delivery of this project, both WYHS and Heart of Ohio Family Health will hold an open house for the new facility on Thursday, March 5th, from 3 – 6 PM. The open house will consist of tours of the new facility culminating in a special presentation in the school's auditorium at 5:30 PM.

School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) reduce barriers associated with accessing health services by providing reduced-cost services, providing comprehensive and culturally competent healthcare services inside the school and eliminating transportation issues.

"With this increased healthcare access, we can help reduce health disparities, chronic absenteeism and improve learning outcomes for students in Whitehall," Heart of Ohio Family Health CEO Dr. Buhari Mohammed said. "Studies show that teens are more willing to get help for problems like depression and weight issues at a school-based health center because they see the health center's staff at school each day, which helps build trust."

"Our partnership with Heart of Ohio Family Health has been phenomenal thus far," said WCS Superintendent, Brian Hamler. "Whitehall City Schools is very excited to be able to help provide them with the space necessary to serve not only our student population but our Whitehall community as a whole. By simply providing a convenient outlet of access to care, this has the potential to do great things for our students' personal academic achievement."

Heart of Ohio Family Health's new health center at WYHS will be open to the public (insured and uninsured) from 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. It will be staffed by a Certified Nurse Practitioner, two medical assistants, a front desk/registration staff member, and a behavioral health counselor (as needed). Services will include immunizations, same-day sick appointments, behavioral health services, women's health services, sports physicals, substance use screenings, chronic care management, and more.

This unique project is funded from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners Catalyst Grant and the Educational Services Center (ESC) of Central Ohio.

For more information about Heart of Ohio Family Health, visit <http://www.heartofohiofamilyhealth.org>.

For more information about Whitehall City Schools, visit <http://www.wcsrams.org>.

###