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Sunday, August 5, 2007

## Avis Goodwin celebrates National Health Center Week

DOVER — Avis Goodwin Community Health Center based in Dover and Rochester welcomes federal, state, and local officials to a legislative breakfast celebrating National Health Center Week, Aug. 5-11. Avis Goodwin CHC is a nonprofit, community health center that provides healthcare services for the entire family, with fees based on ability to pay.

The mission of AGCHC is to provide integrated, comprehensive, quality healthcare, serving all in the community. Other events honoring National Health Center Week include health fairs, press conferences, and visits by local, state, and national leaders to health centers in their community.

Nationwide, health centers provide care for 16 million Americans, and they never turn anyone away — regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Among the many benefits of health centers are:

- Improved access to primary and preventive care for every person, based on their ability to pay
- Effective management of chronic illness for those who would otherwise go without care for it
- Reduction of health disparities, including racial and ethnic disparities
- Cost-effective care for both patients and Medicaid
- Quality of care with board certified physicians and licensed providers
- Fewer infant deaths, better and early prenatal care, and better birth weights
- Reduced numbers of emergency room visits for non-critical care

"America's Health Centers: Your Health Care Home" is the theme of this year's national campaign, underscoring the critical importance of access to affordable health care.

Congress has taken the step investing \$750 million in new funding for health centers over the past six years. This year lawmakers appropriated an historic \$207 million increase in funding aimed at providing 1.5 million more Americans with a health care home.

Avis Goodwin CHC currently serves more than 8,000 individuals. There are over 10,000 uninsured residents in Strafford County, and the numbers are increasing every year.

Avis Goodwin Community Health Center is celebrating National Health Center Week 2007 with a legislative breakfast to spread the word to elected leaders that our good health depends on the support and expansion of health centers. Legislators, representatives, local community leaders and supporters have been invited to a celebration breakfast and tour of our Dover facility.

For information, visit [www.healthcenterweek.org](http://www.healthcenterweek.org).

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Sunday, August 26, 2007

## Avis Goodwin Health Center hosts legislators

DOVER — Avis Goodwin Community Health Center has provided services for patients in Strafford County and surrounding areas for 33 years. The agency's board of directors hosted a Legislative Breakfast on Aug. 7 to celebrate National Health Center Week. The event helped raise awareness and inform key officials and policymakers how the growing number of working families without adequate health insurance or access to care is an issue that affects communities, businesses, and the overall health of New Hampshire.

Legislators and representatives of the New Hampshire State Government, as well as local community leaders, agencies, and supporters celebrated with AGCHC. Among those who attended were Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, Mayor Scott Meyers, Sheridan Brown from Sen. Sununu's office, Sen. Jacalyn Cilley, Baldwin M. Domingo, Roland P. Hofemann, Dr. Joseph M. Miller, Robert J. Watson, Rachel Burke, and Executive Director of Bi-State, Tess Stack-Kuenning.

Janet Atkins, executive director of AGCHC, shared her views of healthcare and the impact of political support, "Avis Goodwin Community Health Center is a bipartisan organization and we believe healthcare should be for everyone, regardless of political party, background or ability to pay. We gathered you here because of the political clout and passion that you all have to make a difference in the lives of the under- and uninsured. We want to recognize all the support you have provided and celebrate the safety net providers that have improved access to healthcare nationwide."

Health centers in the U.S provide care for 16 million Americans regardless of the patient's insurance status or ability to pay. Avis Goodwin serves over 8,000 individuals, most of whom rely on Medicaid or Medicare or have no insurance at all.

Tours were also held at one of the three clinic locations. By touring the facility, participants saw and experienced the need for expansion to accommodate the increasing numbers.

For more information, contact Janet Atkins, 749-2346, Ext. 203.

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Friday, August 31, 2007

## Avis Goodwin health center to build new facility

By JIM HADDADIN  
 Democrat Staff Writer  
[jhaddadin@fosters.com](mailto:jhaddadin@fosters.com)

DOVER — The Avis Goodwin Community Health Center recently announced it plans to build a medical facility on Route 108 between Dover and Somersworth.

Janet Atkins, director of Avis Goodwin, said that the organization will consolidate its four locations in Dover and Rochester into one building in the next few years. Atkins said they will also operate one satellite location in Rochester.

The move will allow Avis Goodwin to add four more health care providers to its staff. In addition, the new facility will boast a day care program, dental care, a holistic health center, and testing for breast and cervical cancer.

Avis Goodwin provides health care for low-income residents who cannot afford health-care insurance.

"We're ready for us to grow, the staff is ready for us to grow, and the patients are ready for us to grow," Atkins said.

The announcement came at a recent breakfast held at Avis Goodwin's Central Avenue office, where legislators and city officials gathered to mark National Health Care Center Week. In attendance were Dover Mayor Scott Myers, state Sen. Jacalyn Cilley, and U.S. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, D-N.H. A representative from U.S. Sen. John E. Sununu's office was also on hand.

While addressing the group, Shea-Porter described recent efforts in the House and Congress to provide funding for Health Care providers such as Avis Goodwin through the State Children's Health Insurance Program. She said that federal health care is fiscally responsible because preventive care keeps residents at work.

"As time goes on, we'll be able to provide better care for places like this," Shea-Porter said. "We have to take care of those who cannot provide it for themselves."

After the breakfast, several guests traveled to Avis Goodwin's nearby Dover facility, where Atkins lead a tour of the offices and administrative space. The staff at the center designed all of the interior decorating at the space in an effort to cut down on costs.

According to Atkins, a recent poll of Strafford County residents found that their top three medical priorities are access to health care, mental health assistance, and dental care. She said that Avis Goodwin helps to supplement that need in the community.



Janet Atkins, executive director of Avis Goodwin Community Health Center, right, greets Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter to the Dover center where a breakfast was held recently to kick off the first National Health Care Center Week. (Mike Ross/Chief photographer)

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**Mike Ross/Chief photographer Janet Atkins, executive director of Avis Goodwin Community Health Center, discusses where the Dover center is heading at a breakfast to launch National Health Care Center Week.**



**Mike Ross/Chief photographer Congresswoman Carol Shear-Porter, D.-N.H., left, and state Sen. Jackie Cilley listen to an Avis Goodwin Community Healthcare Center client at a recent breakfast in Dover.**

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