

# **Charlotte Community Health Clinic Letter of Support**

I wanted to share with you that I have been asked to provide a letter of support for the Charlotte Community Health Clinic's application to become a Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC).

As you will recall, C.W. Williams Health Clinic is currently the only FQHC in Mecklenburg County. I am submitting my letter of support for this designation as I believe the community will benefit from the Charlotte Community Health Clinic having this designation, and expanding their services. Additionally, the application process is not competitive with C.W. Williams' designation, and having more than one FQHC in a community is not uncommon.

As background, the Charlotte Community Health Clinic started in 2000 with a small grant from United Way. United Way provided start-up funding for a health clinic to provide services to uninsured adults age 55 and over. Charlotte Community Health Clinic was incorporated in 2001, and services expanded to the current full-time health clinic providing primary care and behavioral health services to all life cycles.

In 2013, Charlotte Community Health Clinic provided over 8,300 medical visits to almost 4,200 patients. As you know, the County has provided funding to the Charlotte Community Health Clinic for several years, and for the current fiscal year the funding expanded to include a program focused on the homeless population.

The following is information provided to me by the Charlotte Community Health Clinic regarding their application:

"The patient population of Charlotte Community Health Center reflects the diversity of the area. Over half of the patients are Hispanic and over 26 percent of the patients are African-American. Almost 20 percent of the patients are below the age of 18. The Hispanic population in the service area doubled between 2000 and 2010. There are

over 254,000 individuals with income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level in the greater Charlotte area. Less than 4 percent of these individuals receive health care services through the Public Health Service Act §330 health center program. The target population for this application is individuals with income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and homeless individuals.

"Health disparities in the Charlotte area include infant mortality of the minority population 4.1 times higher than the white population, poor teen mental health, high rates of obesity and overweight adults, tuberculosis in the foreign-born population, and HIV rates ten times as high in the minority community compared to the white population. Low-income individuals in the Charlotte area have higher rates of smoking and obesity/overweight than higher income individuals.

"Charlotte Community Health Clinic proposes to expand services through New Access Point funding to increase the number of unduplicated patients served, increase the number of encounters, and increase the types of services provided through Public Health Service Act §330(e) community health center and §330(h) healthcare for the homeless funding. Charlotte Community Health Clinic will provide primary care, integrated behavioral health, and substance abuse services at two health center locations. The existing location will continue to serve the general community, and a second location will be added in grant year 2 to expand services to the homeless population."

### **Big Turnout Highlights County Job Fair**

Nearly 2,000 people dropped in at the Grady Cole Center earlier this month for the Mecklenburg County Job Fair, and the preliminary results are promising.

The Job Fair, hosted by the Human Resources Department at the Grady Cole Center on Sept. 9, was open to current employees and the public. Attendees were able to learn about County benefits and career and talent development opportunities. A computer lab was set up so applications could be submitted right on the spot.

Represented departments included Park and Recreation, Library, Internal Audit, Human Resources, Land Use and Environmental Services, Provided Services Organization, Health Department, Criminal Justice, Community Support Services, Department of Social Services, Youth and Family Services, Procurement, Information Technology, and Sheriff's Office.

Several departments collected stacks of resumes during the Job Fair, and interviews with potential candidates have already been scheduled. Human Resources will be compiling and comparing data on all applicants over the next year to continue to gauge the success of the event.

If you have questions, please contact Keisha Scott, Human Resources manager, at <u>Keisha.Scott@mecklenburgcountync.gov</u>.

#### Park and Rec Studying Feasibility of Memorial Stadium Expansion

More professional sports could be coming to Uptown Charlotte.

Park and Recreation and the Charlotte Hounds professional lacrosse team are researching the possibility of expanding the playing field at Memorial Stadium to accommodate major league soccer.

Currently, only football, lacrosse and non-professional soccer games are played at the stadium. The Hounds believe an expanded field could attract a professional major league soccer franchise to Charlotte.

Park and Recreation and the Hounds are jointly studying the feasibility of enlarging the field, along with the cost. The Charlotte Hounds have committed at least \$1.5 million to the joint effort. Park and Recreation will present the design, elements of an agreement and the cost benefit analysis of the project to me and my Executive Team

for review in early fall.

If you have questions about the feasibility study, contact Park and Recreation Director Jim Garges via email.

## 'Big Sweep' Set for Sept. 27

Adding a little elbow grease can go a long way toward cleaning up local waterways.

NC Big Sweep is an annual statewide waterway cleanup event organized locally by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services. This year, Big Sweep is set for Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more than a decade, dozens of volunteers have come together each year to clean and clear area creeks and streams, filtering out trash and debris. Last year, more than 29 tons of waste was pulled from local waterways.

Individual volunteers and groups who want to participate are welcome at any of <u>eight</u> <u>staffed locations</u>, or may select their spot. Volunteers can register in advance by calling Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services at 311, or visiting the Storm Water Services <u>website</u>.

At the staffed locations, Big Sweep participants will be provided with trash bags, gloves, snacks, bottled water and instructions from a site coordinator. Children ages 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact Erin Hall at Storm Water Services at <u>Erin.Hall@mecklenburgcountync.gov</u>.

#### CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Wednesday, September 24, 8:00 -9:30 a.m. County Manager to give update on improvements to permitting and inspections process at Charlotte Chamber Land Use Committee Meeting, Charlotte Chamber – Bank of America Briefing Center, 330 S. Tryon St.
- Tuesday, September 30, 7-8 p.m. County Manager to serve on panel at the International Women's Forum, Duke Mansion, 400 Hermitage Road
- Tuesday, October 7, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CH-14
- Tuesday, October 7, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CH-14
- Tuesday, October 21, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CH-14
- Tuesday, October 21, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CH-14
- Monday, November 10, 8:30 a.m. BOCC Breakfast with Mecklenburg County Legislative Delegation, CMGC Room 267

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