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Governor
Deval Patrick

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**GOVERNOR PATRICK VISITS BROCKTON
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY HEALTH
CENTER TO DISCUSS THE
ADMINISTRATION'S INVESTMENTS IN**

AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

BROCKTON– Tuesday, July 29, 2014 – Governor Deval Patrick today toured the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center (BHNC) and met with staff to discuss strategic investments by the Patrick Administration that have supported access to quality, affordable health care in local communities. The Patrick Administration has worked in partnership with community health centers across the state to strengthen care coordination, enhance the use of technology for more efficient care, support public health and advance community wellness.

"Community health centers support our Nation-leading health care system," said Governor Patrick. "Together, we are advancing quality, affordable preventative health services in often under-served communities that will have health benefits for generations to come."

BHNC has partnered with the Administration to connect to the MassHIway, advance substance abuse treatment, implement patient-centered medical care models, enhance HIV client health and prevention services, support for more than 15 Certified Application Councilors, and strengthen diabetes education and referral as one of three statewide pilot sites. BNCH is one of 49 community health centers across the Commonwealth working with state partners to provide innovative patient care.

"The Brockton Community Health Center and its doctors, nurses and staff, led by Sue Joss, are the backbone of our health care system in Brockton," said Congressman Stephen Lynch. "I remain very grateful for Governor Patrick's long-time support."

Joined by Health and Human Services Secretary John Polanowicz, Governor Patrick toured BHNC's enrollment center, Adult Care unit and Pediatrics department where the Governor read to young patients as part of the Center's "Reach Out and Read" program.

"As we work to transform health care on the state and national levels, Community Health Centers play unique and critical role within our Commonwealth's health care mix and the communities they serve," said Secretary Polanowicz. "By taking an inclusive approach to health care, many Community Health Centers are enhancing coordinated patient care practices that help contain costs, addressing not just physical health, but also the mental, nutritional, fitness and public health needs of patients."

Following the tour, the Governor participated in roundtable discussion with local officials, BNHC leadership, Brockton area health care providers including Brockton Hospital, and Good Samaritan Medical Center and Representatives from the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, to discuss how to better collaborate with state agencies and connect to Administration supports that can advance public health and wellness in Brockton and communities across the Commonwealth.

"Increased access to affordable healthcare is essential to the well-being of our Brockton community," said Representative Claire D. Cronin. "I am pleased with the investments in community health centers such as Brockton Neighborhood Community Health Center. These investments will allow our neighbors to access preventative services as well as treatment for substance abuse and addiction."

"We were thrilled to have Governor Patrick tour Brockton Neighborhood Health Center today so see the important work we do," said Brockton Neighborhood Health

Center CEO Sue Joss. "The Patrick Administration has been incredibly supportive of community health centers and the patients we serve. BNHC serves more than 27,000 diverse, low-income patients and we grew 12% over the past year. Support from the state has been critical to our ability to maintain and expand access to care for our community."

The Patrick Administration has invested in Community Health Centers to promote preventative care, expand public health grant initiatives to tackle the most common chronic health initiatives, payment reform, patient care coordination, substance abuse prevention and intervention, sexual health education and smoking cessation. Thanks to partnerships with community health centers, over 90 percent of Massachusetts residents have access to a primary care physician.

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