

## **BCHC director awarded for outstanding contribution**



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**BANDON** — Bandon Community Health Center Executive Director Linda Maxon is the 2014 Oregon Primary Care Association Growth Award recipient for outstanding contribution to the state's network of community health centers.

The growth award honors Maxon's direction at BCHC, ensuring the health center's ability to meet growing patient demand. Bandon Community Health Center was the only newly approved

Federally Qualified Health Center in Oregon in 2013. Maxon led the FQHC application process and the health center is now recruiting additional primary and mental health providers in conjunction with a planned move to a larger clinic.

The award demonstrates statewide recognition of the health center's professional management, said Cathy Underdown, BCHC board director.

“Good management allows providers to focus on delivering a very personal level of care and Linda's at the center of that,” said Underdown. “It's always an honor to be held up as an example. We're happy to be on track with our (clinic) redesign and staff recruiting. The board of directors is excited about the fact that we have the leadership experience in place to keep up our forward momentum.”

Maxon accepted her award at the OPCA annual meeting April 25.

### **Expanded health care good for region**

The need for additional primary care services was the focus of a regional health care discussion hosted by Bandon Community Health Center earlier this month. Representatives from area health care organizations, civic and business leaders and members of the press previewed the under-construction BCHC clinic and shared perspectives on health care.

“The South Coast area is an interesting laboratory,” Bay Area Hospital CEO Paul Janke told the press.

The region is historically under served, he said. But new and emerging hospital and primary care services suggest residents can see improved health outcomes.

BCHC will move operations to the clinic at 1010 First St. SE this summer. The new clinic features nine exam rooms and a mental health unit, with space for the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance program, Oregon Coast Community Action and Area Health Education Centers. The new site is also adjacent to Bandon's public transit stop.

BCHC, Curry Family Medical and Southern Coos Hospital have recruited new providers in

recent weeks. But the ratio of patients to providers could be better, health providers in the area agree. BCHC is collaborating with Coos and Curry health groups to boost recruitment of doctors, nurse practitioners and mental health professionals.

Coordinating care with area providers is a smart way to do business and a sound investment in the long term health of the community, said Maxon.

“We want to keep health care services in our own back yard,” she said.

Bandon Community Health Center provides caring attention from highly skilled medical professionals. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, BCHC offers primary health care to residents of Oregon’s South Coast, with outreach efforts in Bandon, Langlois, Port Orford and Agness. The health center is accepting new patients in Bandon.