
http://theworldlink.com/bandon/news/coast-community-health-center-welcomes-new-health-professionals/article_a2fa1123-c18a-540a-88a7-2f4e4ead9b8a.html

Coast Community Health Center welcomes new health professionals

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Coast Community Health Center's Physician Assistant Andrew Fraser, left, with Dr. Hank H
Contributed photo

BANDON – The number of caring, experienced health professionals at Coast Community Health Center is growing. That's good news for patients looking for quality primary health care closer to home in South Coos and North Curry counties.

Team-based care has always been a priority at Coast Community Health Center. This summer and fall, the health center announced several firsts in their service area, including recruitment of pediatric

specialists and a physician assistant. New and established patients experience even more efficient routine and acute care thanks to additional providers with multiple areas of expertise.

“Our additional providers are opening up capacity, making the clinic nimble and responsive to patient needs,” said Executive Director Linda Maxon.

Maxon was pleased to welcome two pediatric providers to the health center this summer. For many years, families seeking pediatric specialists traveled outside Bandon and North Curry County for medical care, adding travel time and cost for pediatric services. Dr. Carla McKelvey and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Patricia Savage now serve children and young adults at the health center in Bandon. NP Savage also meets with patients in the Port Orford/Langlois School District in the Pirate Wellness Center at Pacific High School.

Savage has worked in private and public health clinics, as well as school-based health centers and healthy start programs. She appreciates the health center’s commitment to affordable health care. Outreach health services in the Port Orford school district include wellness visits, sports physicals, immunizations and acute care.

“The school setting is more accessible and timely for kids,” said Savage. “And, care is available without worrying about whether you can afford it.”

Family Nurse Practitioner Whitney Lynn and Physician Assistant Andrew Fraser joined the health care team this fall. Similar to physician or nurse practitioner training, Fraser’s PA education includes a range of health coursework and hands-on experience, including two rural campus rotations in Coos County. Fraser serves patients with supervising physician Dr. Hank Homes.

In primary care settings, PAs frequently improve patient access through follow-up visits and same-day care, noted Dr. McKelvey.

McKelvey is the regional associate dean for the Oregon Health and Science University Campus for Rural Health - South Coast. She met Fraser during his Coos County training. She appreciates his energy and his particular interest in working with geriatric patients.

Fraser said his introduction to Coast Community Health Center, during his rural health rotation, was so welcoming he spoke with Maxon about a position with the health center.

“It instantly felt like home. There’s an excitement in the community about how to rethink health and access to care,” said Fraser.

Fraser considers patients’ lifestyles and overall health experiences, especially when serving older patients who may deal with stress as a result of health issues.

“Clinical goals fall by the wayside if you aren’t able to have trusting conversations about anxiety and fears about your health. I really like building relationships and having conversations and honest discussion around wellness goals,” said Fraser.

Construction plans for a second health clinic are underway in Port Orford. And, Maxon is pleased the health center can offer a full complement of primary care services to area patients.

Coast Community Health Center is at 1010 First St. SE, Suite 110, in Bandon. For appointments or new patient registration, call 541-347-2529, or visit coastcommunityhealth.org.

Coast Community Health Center is a private, not-for-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center. Its primary health care clinic is located in Bandon. Coos and Curry County residents may also take advantage of community health outreach services in Bandon and the Port Orford office. Contact health center staff at 541-347-2529, or visit coastcommunityhealth.org.