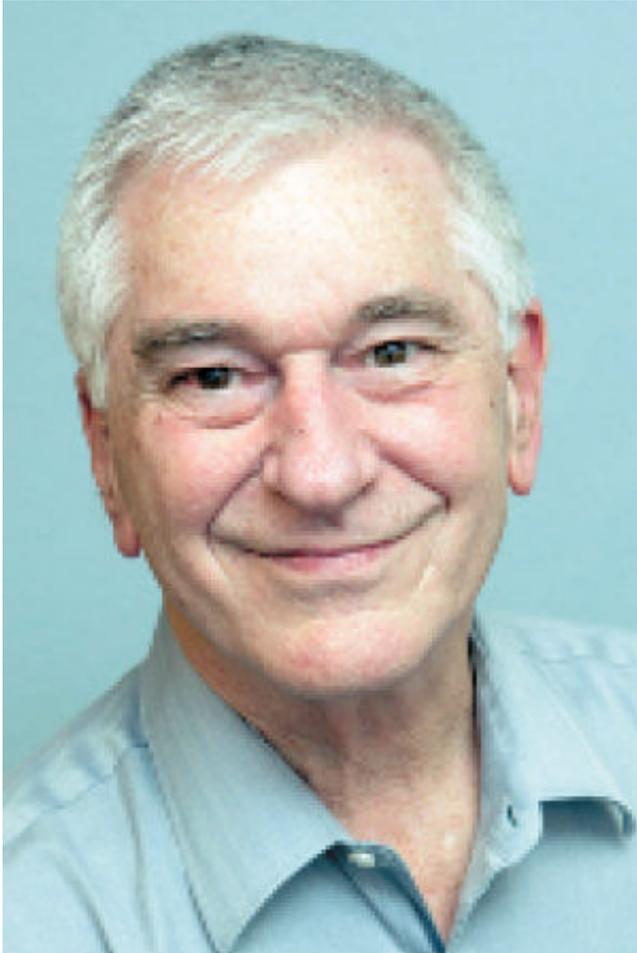


New medical director joins health center



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BANDON — Bandon Community Health Center welcomes a new primary health care provider to the South Coast. Dr. Hank Holmes, MD, joins the health center team as medical director.

Holmes is a board-certified family practice physician with 35 years' experience, including many years working in rural areas of Oregon, Arizona and California. He will join nurse practitioners Laura Bye Franklin and Debra Guzman serving patients at the Bandon clinic starting Aug. 13.

Holmes takes an integrated health care approach that involves clinic staff, as well as neighboring wellness providers.

“The most important thing is the connection with patients,” Holmes said. “I have a vision of a clinic where everybody can come and be comfortable, from the front to the back. It takes every member of the team to serve the patient well.”

“I like being in a community where doctors can call on each other (for support),” he added.

Input from local physicians Dr. Carl Moehring and Dr. Delbert Remy aided the search for a medical director.

“It was so valuable to be able to engage credible voices in the conversation,” BCHC Executive Director Linda Maxon said. “These are physicians who really know the community. Their insight, along with the introductions to other medical professionals and the staff at Southern Coos Hospital has been invaluable welcoming Dr. Holmes.”

As medical director, Holmes will oversee clinical operations and patient care in Bandon and the center's outreach site at Pacific High School, while providing direct care for patients in the Bandon clinic.

Holmes will transition from part to full-time in Bandon on completion of his contract as an urgent care provider with Samaritan Health Services in Albany. He fills the position previously held by Dr. Gail McClave, who has returned to private practice.

Holmes is a Bandon enthusiast who began visiting in the 1980s. Between visits, he follows news about everything from local health care to youth theater.

He commended the health center board, staff and volunteers, especially their service to many who have been under served. Starting work in a new Bandon clinic is frosting on the cake, he said.

When in town, he's known to pass a rainy day collecting beach rocks for his tumbler and for his lively sense of humor. Joking with people is a better way to help them get well than being serious, he said.

New clinic set for Aug. 11 opening

Health center staff are eager to begin work in their newly renovated clinic at 1010 First St. SE.

The clinic will be closed for the move Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7 and 8. Patient appointments will resume Monday, Aug. 11.

With the move, the health center will adopt a new name: Coast Community Health Center. The name change reflects the group's commitment to patients throughout southern Coos and northern Curry counties.

About CCHC

Coast Community Health Center provides caring attention from highly skilled medical professionals. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, the center offers primary health care to residents of Oregon's South Coast in the Bandon clinic and Pirate Wellness Center at Pacific High School. The health center is accepting new patients. Contact health center staff at 541-347-2529.