

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Amy Ventetuolo

Phone: 760-736-8663 (O)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North County Health Services Receives Three Awards for Quality Care

Local Health Center Ranks in Top 2% Nationally

San Marcos, Ca. December 19th, 2014 -- North County Health Services (NCHS), a family of 10 community clinics or health centers in North San Diego County, is proud to announce they are recipients of three quality awards given by Health & Human Services (HHS).

Sylvia M. Burwell, HHS Secretary announced recently that \$36.3 million in Affordable Care Act funding would be awarded to 1,113 health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and seven U.S. Territories to recognize health center quality improvement achievements and to invest in ongoing quality improvement activities. The HHS stated that the health centers receiving awards are proven leaders in areas such as chronic disease management, preventive care and the use of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to report quality data.

NCHS was awarded three of these awards for its accomplishments over the preceding year. The three awards are:

Clinical Quality Improvers Award:

- NCHS received this award for demonstrating a minimum of ten percent improvement captured from 2012 – 2013 which represents a significant improvement in the health of patients served. This **\$32,153.00** award was given to 1,058 health centers.

Health Center Quality Leaders Award:

- NCHS received this award for being in the top 30% of the nation for best overall clinical quality receiving **\$52,153.00**. NCHS is in the top 2% of health centers awarded in this category.

National Quality Leaders Award:

- NCHS received **\$52,153.00** for this award which was based on exceeding national clinical benchmarks (Healthy People 2020 objectives and health center national averages). NCHS was one of only 57 health centers receiving this award - representing the top 5% of health centers for quality performance measures.

“This award is a meaningful testament to our team work as clinicians and staff,” remarks Dr. Patrick Tellez, Chief Medical Officer at North County Health Services. “We can be proud of the value that this brings not only to NCHS, but to our patients and the communities we serve.”

NCHS has worked diligently to transform their clinical processes by implementing new systems and hiring more personnel to meet all the requirements of the National Commission of Quality Assurance (NCQA) for the Patient-Centered Medical Home recognition & Meaningful Use quality performance metrics. "The investments we've made

are paying off", explains Irma Cota, MPH, President & CEO of North County Health Services. "From a public health perspective, this is a huge accomplishment we are proud to share and is clear evidence how dedicated we are to our mission" stated Irma Cota.

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About North County Health Services

North County Health Services is a private not-for-profit organization that serves over 55,000 patients annually at 10 community health centers in Carlsbad, Encinitas, Oceanside, San Marcos and Ramona, and through two mobile clinics. NCHS has been providing affordable, quality & comprehensive care to members of our north San Diego County communities who are uninsured or underinsured for over 40 years. Services at NCHS include pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, dental care, radiology, pharmacy and transportation services as well as community health outreach, prevention and disease management programs. We accept private insurances, Medi-Cal and Medicare. If you are uninsured, you may be eligible for low or no-cost programs based on your income, qualify for a discount or use our monthly payment plan. For more information, visit www.nchs-health.org or call 760-736-6767.