Open Health Care Clinic Receives FCC Telehealth Funding

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BATON ROUGE – Open Health Care Clinic was recently awarded $116,049 in funding by the Federal Communications Commission's Wireline Competition Bureaus (FCC) for its COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

The $200 million in telehealth funding was appropriated by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help health care providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will allow Open Health, a Community Health Center, to expand its telehealth and remote patient monitoring capabilities to treat low-income, vulnerable patients.

"We're applying new technology to better serve our patients and help families to better coordinate their care by extending beyond the physical and transportation barriers some face. Easier access means better outcomes for patients," said Tim Young, CEO of Open Health Care Clinic.

The funding has been provided to some of the hardest-hit areas across the U.S. To date, the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program has funded $13.7 million to 30 health care providers in 16 states for which Open Health is the second recipient in Louisiana.

"Community Health Centers across Louisiana are leading the way in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Chris Obafunwa, Director of Health Information Technology for the Louisiana Primary Care Association. "Already known for their efficiency and innovation, health centers have quickly redesigned clinical protocols, rearranged their facilities, and are engaging in telehealth services to care for their patients while keeping them safe from exposure. We are so proud of the team at Open Health Care Clinic on earning this telehealth program award from the FCC. This award is sure to expand their telehealth capacity, boost remote patient monitoring capabilities, and allow them to serve even more patients in communities across East Baton Rouge Parish and beyond."

Held virtually or over the phone, telehealth visits allow Open Health providers to continue to provide medical, dental, and behavioral health appointments while safeguarding the health of its patients and staff from COVID-19. Open Health anticipates providing mobile testing for COVID-19 in the near future.

Open Health Care Clinic is a one-stop, neighborhood health center located in Baton Rouge. As a true community-wide caregiver, we envision a brighter future for the patients we serve, which includes

providing more educational opportunities, comprehensive services, and access to quality care. From pediatrics to dental to endocrinology, Open Health Care Clinic provides advanced medical services for every phase of a person's life. We offer extended hours, weekend appointments, sick walk-in visits, and televisit appointments.

To learn more about Open Health Care Clinic, please visit www.ohcc.org. To schedule a televisit, please call (225) 655-6422 (OHCC).

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