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Coming  
Soon:  
CCHD's  
new logo  
will be  
unveiled  
on March  
1st!



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*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (from left to right—Allen Griffith, Towanda Webber, Camilla Viator, Sandra Guice, Sheila McWhorter, Britt Allen, Toni Hardy, Earl Parker)*

## Madison Health Resource Center Celebrates the Grand Opening of New Location

The Madison County Health Resource Commission celebrated the grand opening of the Madison Health Resource Center's new location by hosting an open house on February 9. More than 80 people attended the event where the center's new "Be Healthy!" logo was also unveiled and local donors were recognized for funding the purchase of a new minivan for the center's transportation program. Ms. Sheila McWhorter, the Madison County Health Resource Commission Chairwoman, was delighted by the open house turnout. "We are so grateful to have the support of our local elected officials, the hospital, our volunteers, service providers, CCHD, and of course, our health resource center staff - executive director Camilla Viator, and office manager Ms. Towanda Webber - who made this all possible."

While the health resource center just moved across the hall from its old location, the center increased to nearly 1,800 square feet of space, which can better accommodate its multiple health and social service organizations that offer assistance to Madison County residents. The new office space is located within the Madison St. Joseph Professional Building and is being generously donated by Madison St. Joseph Health Center, which had subsidized the previous resource center office suite. Ms. Viator expressed her gratitude for the hospital's commitment to the health resource center.

"Madison St. Joseph's willingness to continue to support our health resource center in this way is obviously a tremendous contribution. We are extremely thankful that Reed Edmundson had this vision nearly 10 years ago of what a health resource center could offer to our community."

Local dignitaries attending the open house spoke of the impact of the Madison Health Resource Center. Madison County Judge Art Henson reminded the crowd that Madison County had been a partner of the health resource center since its inception in 2003. He noted the "Be Healthy!" logo and stated that "they are doing their part to make it a reality." Judge Henson recalled that soon after he took office in 2007, Madison County had the opportunity to take over the management of the senior meals program that provides congregate and home delivered meals to local seniors. With the help of the resource center, the number of seniors receiving home delivered meals increased from an average of 30 to more than 70. The program also expanded its reach to include North Zulch in the western part of the county and Midway in the eastern part of the county. Without the resource center's involvement, the county would not have achieved success so quickly. Judge Henson closed by saying that the "resource commission, Camilla, and Towanda will make sure to take advantage of opportunities for Madison County."



Madisonville Mayor Terry Creel echoed Judge Henson's sentiment about the health resource center being a local partnership as the City of Madisonville has been a long-time supporter of the center. The city, like the county, has committed ongoing financial support for the center because the council realizes the value of having services provided through the center in its own community. Mayor Creel thanked the health resource center staff for their direction and congratulated them on their new location. Mayor Creel recognized all involved in making the resource center an enormous benefit for the community, "Thank you to the volunteers, the commission, and all those providing services."



*Reed Edmundson speaking at the Grand Opening*

Madison St. Joseph Health Center CEO, Mr. Reed Edmundson told the attendees that the Madison Health Resource Center had become "so much more than I had dreamed." He said that St. Joseph was glad to provide the facility in an effort to bring some equity in the provision of services to rural communities like Madison County. "I saw a shortfall in the dollars leaving Brazos County to support services in the rural Brazos Valley counties. The six rural Brazos Valley counties made up 42% of the population in 2002 but we only received 10% of the services in communities. We have so many more services now than we did just a few years ago. We have the best leader in the Brazos Valley in Camilla."



*Judge Art Henson speaking at the Grand Opening*

Prior to the grand opening ritual of the ribbon cutting, Ms. Viator revealed the "Be Healthy!" logo that the Madison Health Resource Center had recently adopted. The logo was selected to convey a message that the center and the services offered within are addressing the health and wellbeing of Madison County residents. The new logo also eliminates the use of initials when referring to the health resource center. "Using MHRC in our logo was often difficult for the public to understand who we are and what our focus is."

Ms. Viator acknowledged all of the partners that support the resource center and offered a special note of thanks to the donors who contributed to the purchase of a new health resource center minivan. The donation by the local residents, who wish to remain anonymous, provided the center with the means to replace the 2003 minivan, which has transported hundreds of local residents who had no other means of transportation to health related destinations free of charge. The program is operated with volunteer drivers from the area, which Ms. Viator said is critical to the success of the program. In 2010 alone, the resource center served 895 new clients, provided 16,563 information & referral services, and 3,526 rides.



*Camilla Viator and Towanda Weber at the Grand Opening*

Funding for the initial development of the Madison Health Resource Center was provided through a federal Healthy Communities Access Program grant awarded to the Center for Community Health Development at Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health and the Brazos Valley Health Partnership. Additional funding and in-kind resources have been provided by Madison County, Madison St. Joseph Health Center, the City of Madisonville, and the Brazos Valley Council of Governments-Brazos Valley Area Agency on Aging.

For more information regarding the services provided at the Madison Health Resource Center, please visit [www.bvhp.org](http://www.bvhp.org).



## New Graduate Assistants



**Olusanya Olufunto** is currently a first year student in the Department of Epidemiology, School of Rural Public Health. Olufunto is from Lagos, Nigeria, and completed her Bachelor's degree in 2006 in medicine and surgery in the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She subsequently completed a one-year internship at the University College Hospital, Ibadan. In addition, she has had two years of experience working as a program officer in Hygeia Foundation which is a sub-recipient of Global-Fund for the HIV/AIDS program in Nigeria. In her spare time, Olufunto enjoys watching movies, reading and swimming.



**Marccus Hendricks** recently obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas in psychology with a minor in health promotion. He is a first-generation college student born and raised in Dallas, Texas, and the youngest of five siblings. The health field has always been an interest of his even as a child. The field of public health seemed like the perfect fit for a fulfilling healthcare career, with admirable satisfaction in saving lives through primary prevention, health promotion and health education. He is truly excited about the opportunity to work with CCHD and gain as much knowledge about the field of public health as he can, all while building capacity and partnerships through community health development with the fine citizens of the Brazos Valley!



**Jeff Bauml** is currently a second year student with the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health. Pursuing his master's degree in Occupational Health, Jeff comes from an entire family of Aggies. He graduated from Texas &M University in 2006, and developed a strong affinity for Health and Safety during his experience working in industry. His interests include improving worker health through systems safety, ergonomics, and occupational safety. At the Center for Community Health Development, Jeff helps develop and improve an ongoing research library, which will serve as a valuable resource for Public Health research.



**Stephanie Reinhold** is currently a student in the MC/MPH program at the Health Science Center. Although she grew up in the Houston area, Stephanie received her Bachelor's degree in biochemistry in Pennsylvania at Villanova University. Stephanie's concentration of study for her MPH is in social and behavioral health. Her public health interests include health literacy and medication adherence. Stephanie looks forward to learning more about medication adherence and the research process during her practicum with the Center for Community Health Development. She also looks forward to being able to incorporate the knowledge she has gained from her MPH into her future role as a physician.

## Evaluating Community and Academic Partnerships

During the spring and summer of 2011, the CCHD Evaluation Team surveyed and interviewed affiliated faculty and community partners to evaluate the community-academic partnership. Affiliated faculty members were asked about benefits and barriers towards working with CCHD, involvement in administration and activities (i.e. publication/scholarship and student mentoring), while community partners were asked to provide information on perceptions, participation, satisfaction and benefits to partnering with CCHD. Overall, responses from participants indicated a positive experience in partnering with CCHD, including producing work of high quality and respectability, access to additional funding opportunities and relationship building. Community members reported benefiting from CCHD guidance, points of view, encouragement and assistance provided through the years. Some of the challenges reported by community members included language barriers related to academic research, research does not happen as fast as they would prefer, and time commitments. Faculty partners also noted challenges inherent in this kind of interdisciplinary collaboration that has given us some ideas for how to better promote our work together to leaders and administrators. More information will be released soon!





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## CCHD Faculty Members Recognized at HSC Convocation Events

Every two years, the faculty, staff, students, and administrators from across the Texas A&M Health Science Center (HSC) gather in College Station (and remotely across the state) to participate in a formal academic convocation. This year's convocation was held on Friday, January 20.

As part of the convocation activities, the HSC and its components recognize faculty and staff with awards for excellence in specific areas. At this year's convocation, Dr. Marcia Ory was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Research. An international leader in healthy aging, community-based prevention and wellness, Dr. Ory has authored or co-authored more than 200 journal articles and book chapters and generated more than \$1 million annually in expenditures for research and service. The award honors significant contributions that enhance, facilitate or accelerate the TAMHSC research enterprise.

At the faculty luncheon preceding convocation, two other CCHD faculty members received awards from the School of Rural Public Health. In recognition of his extensive contributions to the field of public health and his leadership within the School, Dr. Ken McLeroy received the SRPH Award for Excellence in Research. In addition, Dr. Monica Wendel received the SRPH Award for Excellence in Public Health Practice for her ongoing work with communities across the state and her mentorship of students in the work of community health development.