



## News Release

For immediate release, January 28, 2008

For more information, contact:

Karen Bissonnette, Development Director

(508) 477-5990

[www.capecodclinic.org](http://www.capecodclinic.org)

### **Community Health Center Adopts New Name, Prepares for New Building**

Mashpee – Cape Cod Free Clinic & Community Health Center has a new name: **Community Health Center of Cape Cod**. The name change comes at the same time that the staff at the Health Center is preparing to see patients in its newly constructed facility in Mashpee.

“The decision to change our name was an emotional one and came after a great deal of thought and discussion,” says Michael Bihari, M.D., President of the Board of Directors. Focus groups, which included members of the Board, staff, volunteers, and community representatives, were asked to consider “does the term free clinic really capture who we are and what we do?”.

In reality, Dr. Bihari explains, there are no free clinics in Massachusetts anymore. People who were previously covered by the state’s Free Care Pool are automatically converted to the new Commonwealth Care coverage. He notes that there will still be people who slip between the cracks of public benefit programs and the Health Center will always provide services to these vulnerable individuals.

The Health Center was started in April, 1998, as the Falmouth Free Clinic, by a group of area physicians, nurses, counselors, and lay people who were concerned about the numbers of people without health insurance who had no access to basic primary care services. These volunteers provided care one night a week in borrowed space at Falmouth Hospital.

Over the years, the organization expanded to become a licensed community health center and eventually a Federally Qualified Community Health Center. With each new

designation, the Health Center was able to offer access to all who needed care, not just the uninsured. This includes adults and children covered by MassHealth, Medicare, private insurances, and the new Commonwealth Care, who were unable to find a primary care physician.

While there is a feeling of loss that the days of the Falmouth Free Clinic are gone, there is also recognition that it's time to move forward with a name and identity that fits the times, explains Dr. Bihari. "We believe Community Health Center of Cape Cod clearly and precisely describes our organization," he says. The new name and logo go into effect on February 1st.

On February 12, the Health Center will begin seeing patients in its new location in Mashpee. The new, 10,000-square foot building is three times as large as the current Mashpee location and will enable the Health Center to expand its primary care and behavioral health services. Dental care will be introduced this spring. Health Center officials project that they will provide 25,000 medical and dental patient visits a year, up from the current 14,000. Services will continue at the Health Center's Falmouth location in Homeport, on Jones Road and a site will be opened in Bourne later in the year.

The new building is located at 107 Commercial Street, on land donated by the Town of Mashpee. The costs to design, construct, equip and furnish the new site were funded entirely by a fund raising campaign that raised \$5.6 million.

*Community Health Center of Cape Cod is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center that provides access to health care for adults and children with MassHealth, Commonwealth Care, Medicare, private insurance, or no insurance at all. Services include primary and preventive care, behavioral health, coordinated case management, and prescription assistance, at locations in Falmouth and Mashpee. Visit the Health Center online at [capecodclinic.org](http://capecodclinic.org)*