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Manet Community Health Center, Taunton Celebrates Expansion

Taunton, MA (July 25, 2016) – Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III, State Senator Marc Pacheco, State Representative Pat Haddad, Mayor Thomas Hoye and James Hunt of the Mass. League of Community Health Centers joined Manet Community Health Center’s Board President Joseph Reardon and CEO Cynthia Sierra in cutting the ribbon on the health center’s newly expanded practice site in Taunton. The site at 1 Washington Street was filled to capacity on Thursday, July 21 with community partners and supporters who welcome Manet’s expansion and the increased access to care it brings to the community.

“The impact this has for this community is extraordinary,” said Congressman Kennedy. “I want to say thank you for what you do. You remind us that what comes after the name “Manet” is “Community.” You make sure that we are doing what we can to ensure that people in need have access to high quality health care and you can help us make good on the promise that health care is a right for everyone not just a few.”

Senator Marc Pacheco echoed the sentiment, saying, “This is an amazing day for our community. This is going to make a difference for thousands of families in Southeastern Massachusetts.”

Before introducing Congressman Kennedy, James Hunt, President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers stressed the importance of community health centers, noting that the health center movement started in Massachusetts in 1965 and proliferated across the nation thanks in large part to the staunch support of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. “Today, in Massachusetts, 50 community health center organizations provide high quality health care to over 951,000 state residents – and with Manet’s expansion, it will be a million very soon,” quipped Hunt.

The ribbon cutting revealed the addition of three new exam rooms and forecast the intent of further expansion at the Taunton site by March 2017. During the program, Sierra introduced the Manet, Taunton staff, including a new provider, Dr. John Ewald, who will be starting at the site next week.

The Manet site in Taunton opened in 2014 with the support of a US Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, US Health Center Program, Affordable Care Act grant. Manet selected Taunton as the location for the center based on the unmet health needs in in the communities of Taunton, Raynham, Attleboro, Norton, Berkley, and Middleboro.

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Community members who are curious to learn more about the health center are welcome to find out more during National Health Center Week in August. Manet will host open houses at each of its five sites in Quincy, Hull and Taunton. The Taunton open house will take place on Wednesday, August 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1 Washington Street, Suite 900. Sponsored in part by Morton Hospital, the event will showcase the health center's staff and services, as well as those of other community organizations and offer free health screenings and information.

For more information visit www.manetchc.org, www.facebook.com/ManetCommunityHealthCenter or email events@manetchc.org.

About Manet Community Health Center:

Founded in 1979, Manet Community Health Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) dedicated to providing preventive, primary and non-emergent urgent care to all, regardless of financial circumstance or health insurance coverage status. With three locations in Quincy, one in Hull and one in Taunton, Manet serves patients from numerous surrounding communities. Manet is accredited by The Joint Commission and its practice sites are recognized as Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Homes by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NQCA), and Pathway to PRIME by the MA Health Policy Commission. Manet provides services that are reflective of the languages and cultures of the communities it serves and offers a full array of services and programs for infants, children, adolescents, adults, and seniors. For more information, visit www.manetchc.org or www.facebook.com/ManetCommunityHealthCenter.

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