

# COASTAL HEALTHCARE HEALTH COUNCIL FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER (FQHC)

Thank you for being a part of Coastal Healthcare. Following is some basic information about the Council and the FQHC.

**FQHC:** Coastal Healthcare, formerly known as the Lincoln Community Health Center, was created by a federal grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA). It is governed by the Coastal Healthcare Health Council in partnership with the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners (BOC) under a “co-applicant agreement.” Together, they are jointly responsible for managing the grant. According to the Bylaws, the Council’s “responsibilities include providing oversight, leadership, and guidance in support of the Center’s mission. This may include providing feedback and advice to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the health care needs of Lincoln County residents.”

**Scope:** The FQHC supervises Primary Care health services, Family Planning and Reproductive Health, and Immunizations. Center patients can also receive Dental care Vouchers. All three primary care sites are open all year and are designated as Tier-4 Patient Centered Primary Care Homes by the State of Oregon.

**School-Based Health Centers (SBHC):** Both primary and mental health care are provided at FQHC school-based health centers located at each of the County high schools. During the school year, the SBHCs provide easy access to health care for all Lincoln County students, Kindergarten through 12th grade, including home-schooled children. During summer break and non-school days, appointments are available at the Newport, Waldport, and Lincoln City sites.

**Council:** Membership terms are four years, and the Council has between nine and 25 members. At least 51% of council members must be patients of the FQHC (or parents of children receiving services). Membership strives for diversity. The Council communicates with the Health & Human Services Director and the Board of Commissioners as needed and works with community leaders for strategic planning.

**Meetings:** The Council holds monthly public meetings with the Primary Care Director and other staff for reports on the operation of the FQHC. Currently, meetings are in Newport on the second Friday of the month at 1:15 pm. Special meetings may be called by the Council President or by a petition signed by the majority of the membership. At meetings, the Council reviews and approves contracts and policies under the scope of the FQHC; evaluates center services; approves the Coastal Healthcare budget; and other tasks as required. The Council also develops the strategic plan for Coastal Healthcare. Other responsibilities are setting times and types of services, locations and fees.

**Committees:** Council members serve on committees, teams and work groups working with County staff: Finance Committee, Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) committee, Executive Committee, and special committees such as the Nominating Committee and Marketing Team.

**Requirements:** HRSA monitors and audits the FQHC for compliance with grant requirements.

**Revenue:** FQHCs serves everyone including the uninsured and under-insured, but the HRSA grant does not pay for all services. Patient revenue, not local taxes, pays for the remainder of costs. The FQHC accepts most types of insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid, and has a sliding fee discount schedule and nominal charge for fee-for-service patients who cannot pay in full. The FQHC is open to the public.

**Veterans Affairs (VA):** Through a unique contract with Veterans Affairs, VA medical providers see veterans five days a week. The support staff, such as front staff, RNs, and CMAs, are County employees and are overseen by the Primary Care Director. The VA contract is not under the scope of the FQHC.