

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIR INGRID M. TURNER STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

National Health Center Week August 7 – August 13

Prince George's County Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner's Statement on National Health Center Week - National Health Center Week is a prime opportunity to raise awareness of the critical role community health centers play within Prince George's County and in the lives of every Prince Georgian. Federally qualified health centers are an important source of safety net care, providing residents with affordable, high quality healthcare, regardless of their income or ability to pay. By being able to provide all of our residents with access to preventative care, we will have fewer sick residents, fewer non-emergency visits to emergency rooms, and save taxpayer dollars in the long run.

Founded in 1972 to provide primary care services to County residents, Greater Baden Medical Services, Inc. remains the only federally qualified health center in Prince George's County. With locations in Oxon Hill, Suitland, Capitol Heights and Brandywine, Greater Baden continues to provide a wide range of health care services that meet the ever-changing needs of our growing communities. We are also fortunate to have community health centers like Community Clinic, Inc. in neighboring jurisdictions that work with us to help meet the needs of the uninsured and underinsured in Prince George's County. The Council celebrates the great work of our health centers across the region. Because of your efforts we are a stronger, even greater Prince George's County.

As a Council, we have made securing and improving access to affordable health care a top legislative and budgetary priority. We were pleased to announce late last month in conjunction with Governor O'Malley, County Executive Baker and University of Maryland Medical System, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that will provide a long term solution to the County's ailing system and bring a much needed new hospital facility to serve the residents of Prince George's County.

Furthermore, given the important role prevention often plays in helping to keep people healthy and healthcare costs down, the Council, in its role as the Board of Health, will partner with the National Harbor Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. to sponsor "*Health Check – The Prognosis of Prince George's County*" at Prince Georges County Community College Rennie Forum on Saturday, October 1, 2011, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.. The one-day, free symposium will bring together health care providers and community stakeholders for a comprehensive discussion on the County's Health Improvement Plan and the status of various health related issues in the County.

Health care is an issue that greatly impacts each of us. Working together – government and communities – we will continue to make great strides in this area and I look forward, with great anticipation, to all that is to come.

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All legislative powers of Prince George's County are vested in the County Council. The County Council sits as the District Council on zoning and land use policy, and as the Board of Health to govern and guide health policy. The County Council meets as a legislative body on Tuesdays in the Council Hearing Room on the first floor of the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. For more information on the Prince George's County Council, please visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov



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