

One Health Ohio Names Clinic for Slain Boy

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By George Nelson

WARREN, Ohio -- Pamela McCoy says that her son, Lloyd, talked about breaking records set by his sports heroes, but never got the chance to achieve his dreams. In April, the sixth-grader was shot while visiting his sister, and he died a month from what would have been his 12th birthday.

“We always knew that Lloyd would someday be something special,” McCoy said.

Though he never got the chance to realize his own dreams, on Monday what she described as a “dream that is unseen” was realized with the naming of One Health Ohio’s new medical/dental facility in southeast Warren after her son.

Public officials including U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan and Mayor Michael O’Brien were among the guests who turned out for the official announcement of the Ohio Health One Lloyd McCoy Community Medical and Dental Center. The clinic will be located in the former Trumbull Metropolitan Housing Authority building on Niles Road Southeast.

About the same time of the “tragic event,” recalled Dr. Ronald Dwinnells, CEO of One Health Ohio, formerly Ohio North East Health Services Inc., he was notified that his agency was eligible to tap into federal stimulus money. While federal officials wanted him to purchase an electronic medical records system with the funds, Dwinnells said his agency’s infrastructure wasn’t ready for that type of new technology. Following discussions with community leaders in Youngstown and Warren, it was decided the best use of the funds would be to establish a second Warren clinic.

Ohio Health One already operates the Warren West Health Center on Tod Avenue Southwest as well as clinics in Youngstown and Alliance.

During the summer, Beth Haddle, chief operations officer, had the idea to name the center after McCoy. “Out of a bad tragedy comes a regeneration, a rebirth,” Dwinnells said, referring to the myth of the phoenix that he had related just a few minutes before.

“It could have been anyone’s child,” Haddle remarked.

“When someone mentions [Lloyd’s] name, they won’t just associate it with the tragic event of his death,” his mother said. “They can associate it with something positive within the community. That right there is just an honor for me.”

Ohio Health One will receive \$880,910 in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to renovate just over a third of the 30,000-square-foot building, creating nine medical exam rooms and six dental exam rooms.

The renovation will create a dozen or more construction jobs and about 20 staff positions at the new clinic.

By the time the clinic is completed, it will be the largest of Ohio Health One's sites, Haddle said. Plans call for adding a pharmacy, vision center and behavioral health and drug and alcohol treatment programs.

"We're going to bring a lot of services into this area," she said.

The new clinic, which could open by April, will serve a catchment area that includes southeast Warren, Niles, Girard, Mineral Ridge and even the northwest part of Youngstown. About 40% of the people who reside in that area are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, Dwinnells said.

Only about 6% of the current Warren clinic's clientele comes from this area, he continued. Although it is just a couple of miles away "as the crow flies," they are unable to get to the clinic due to transportation issues, he said.

"Basically we ran out of capacity at Warren West," he said. "It's so busy and so full that we had been contemplating expanding that site but this is better because now we can target this population on this side of town."

Ryan, D-17 Ohio, said that while there are a lot of positive developments taking place in the community, "If our young people don't have their health and they're not able to sit in a classroom and learn because they have some sickness, then everything else isn't going to work."

The congressman praised Dwinnells as one of the top people in his field.

"When you talk about health care reform, this is it," he said. Part of the health care reform bill being debated in Congress attempts to put "billions of dollars" into community health clinics "because this is where the solution is, to prevent things from happening."

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