

# **BULLHOOK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

## **NOTICE TO PATIENTS**

This is to notify you that under Federal law relating to the operation of the health center, the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA), (See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 2401(b), 2671-80) provides the exclusive remedy for damage from personal injury, including death, resulting from the performance of medical, surgical, dental, or related functions by any free clinic volunteer health care practitioner, board member, officer, employee, or independent contractor who the Department of Health and Human Services has deemed to be an employee of the Public Health Service. This FTCA medical malpractice coverage applies to deemed free clinic volunteer health care practitioners, board member, officer, employee, or independent contractor who have provided a required or authorized service under Title XIX of the Social Security Act (i.e., Medicaid Program) at a free clinic site or through offsite programs or events carried out by the free clinic (See 42 U.S.C. § 233(a), (o)). The above Federal law and other State and Federal laws including the Federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 may cover certain Health Center health care professionals providing health care services to patients at this Health Center.

Community Health Centers are required to serve all residents of their service area with charges on a sliding fee scale based upon ability to pay. CHCs provide comprehensive health care - this includes primary health care and preventive care for infants, children, and adults; some urgent care; mental health/substance abuse; dental; and pharmaceutical services. CHCs must be either a public or non-profit facility that is governed by a Board of Directors. At least 51% of the CHC's Board of Directors must be composed of members who are patients at the center. This means that the community has a voice in the services offered, helps to assure quality of care, and determines the future of the Bullhook Community Health Center.

Bullhook Health Center originated in September 2005 as a section of the Hill County Health Department, funded by a federal Healthy Communities Access Planning Grant. This grant allowed the Health Department's Bullhook Clinic to offer medical and care management services to the community with a sliding fee scale. Patients were able to access coordinated and holistic care with other providers in the community.

On July 1, 2007, a federal Community Health Center Grant was awarded to the board of directors for the new organization called Bullhook Community Health Center, Inc. FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT (FTCA) PROGRAM Patient Notice of Limited Liability for FTCA Deemed Clinic Volunteer Health Care Professionals, Board Members, Officers, Employees, and Independent Contractors.

Bullhook CHC is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H80CS089219 Health Center Cluster. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

This health center is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n).