

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

Whereas, For 6 years, CenterPlace Health has provided high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care for Sarasota County's medically underserved communities, delivering value to, and having a significant impact on our community's health care system.

Whereas, As our Community Health Center, CenterPlace Health operates seven (7) locations in Sarasota County delivering 87,923 visits to 28,072 individuals in 2023.

Whereas CenterPlace Health is a critical element of the area's health system, providing the only accessible and dependable source of primary care in our communities. CenterPlace Health is the primary care safety-net for those living below the federal poverty line. More than 90% of the patients reported incomes at or below 200% of the poverty level, and more than 72% were without insurance or enrolled in Medicaid.

Whereas, CenterPlace Health integrates a wide range of services beyond primary care, including oral health, behavioral health, chiropractic, pharmacy and on-site lab services. CenterPlace Health has tripled their behavioral health workforce in the last two years to meet our areas growing need for behavioral health services.

Whereas, CenterPlace Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), is governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring patients are engaged in their health care decisions.

Whereas, CenterPlace Health serves as a critical economic engine, helping to power local economies by generating \$34.3 Million in economic activity and supports 180 direct and indirect jobs, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, licensed family therapists, and certified nurse-midwives who work as part of multi-disciplinary clinical teams designed to treat the whole patient.

Whereas, The Community Health Center model continues to prove an effective means of overcoming barriers to healthcare access, including geography, income, and insurance status – improving health outcomes and reducing healthcare system costs.

Whereas, During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the legacy of America's Community Health Centers, including Sarasota County's Community Health Center – CenterPlace Health - and their vital role in shaping the past, present, and future of America's health care system. We honor their dedicated staff, board members, patients, and all those responsible for their continued success and growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nick Pachota, Mayor of the City of Venice, Florida, on behalf of the Venice City Council, do hereby proclaim August 4-10, 2024, as

National Health Center Week

And encourage the citizens of Venice to participate in this week by visiting CenterPlace Health and celebrating this vital partnership between our local Health Centers and the communities they serve.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused the Seal
of the City of Venice to be affixed
this 9th day of July, 2024

Nick Pachota, Mayor