

**November 21, 2017**

## **Ribbon-cutting event officially marks Eight Mile Health Center's opening**

PRICHARD, Alabama — Family Health, the primary care division of the Mobile County Health Department, opened its first Eight Mile Health Center in a strip mall in 1996. The site quickly became one of Family Health's busiest locations and had long since outgrown its 7,000-square-foot spot.

On Tuesday, the future of health care in Prichard was on display during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Eight Mile Health Center at 4009 Saint Stephens Road. Special guest speakers included Merceria Ludgood, president of the Mobile County Commission; Jimmie Gardner, mayor of Prichard; Vivian Davis Figures, state senator for District 33; and Dr. Lawrence Bedsole, chairman of the Mobile County Board of Health. The Rev. W.J. Lomax Jr. of New Light Baptist Church provided the invocation.

Dr. Bernard H. Eichold II, Health Officer of Mobile County; and Dr. Angelia Lewis, Director for Family Health Clinical Services; discussed how the original clinic had just two exam rooms while patients now have access to a state-of-the-art facility. Inside the current 12,000-square-foot building, Family Health provides medical, dental and social services to all ages and genders. Also available is drive-through pick-up for the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) supplemental nutrition clients.

Two years ago, Family Health received a \$1,000,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant-awarded funds were used to build the new structure. MCHD provided more than \$1.1 million of additional funds to purchase the 5.23 acres of land. Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's WIC program contributed approximately \$400,000 to the construction.

Since 1979, Family Health has provided comprehensive primary care services throughout Mobile County. There are now 10 health center sites spanning from Mount Vernon to Tillman's Corner to Semmes. The sites, which are all designated as Federally Qualified Health Centers, are strategically located where the needs are the greatest and access to care is most limited.

The phone number for the Eight Mile Health Center is 251-456-1399, while the appointment line is 251-690-8889. The clinic is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Family Health also offers Urgent Care at the Keeler Memorial Building in downtown Mobile at 251 N. Bayou Street weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. To learn more about the medical services offered, please visit <http://FamilyHealthAlabama.org>.

To view video of the ribbon-cutting event, please visit the MCHD/Family Health channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXAuObFu2J8>.

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