



Virginia Garcia Center serves up honors and plans for new building

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

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The Hillsboro Argus

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CORNELIUS - The courtyard at the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center clinic in Cornelius was packed Monday morning for celebration of National Health Center Week and Migrant Farmworker Health Day.

Rep. David Wu, Mayors Bill Bash, of Cornelius, and Denny Doyle, of Beaverton, joined Virginia Garcia staff and Albert Moreno, migrant health coordinator for Oregon, and Joseph Gallegos, of the National Association of Community Health Centers. All celebrated the progress made in providing care for an underserved population.

The event was also an opportunity to view architectural plans for a new \$12 million, 42,000 square-foot Cornelius center, which could replace the current complex of buildings as soon as 2011. The new center would fill the entire block bordered by 12th and 11th avenues and Adair and Baseline streets

Gil Munoz Virginia Garcia's CEO, said the center has applied for a grant from the Facility Investment Program, which will have \$511 million to award under a third round of federal economic stimulus funding. The success of this application should be known by mid October, he said.

The new facility will allow them to serve an additional 5,000 patients and integrate the pharmacy, behavior health and outreach health education departments in one building, Munoz said. Administrative staff would also return to Cornelius from the Hillsboro clinic.

Architect Sid Scott, of Scott/Edwards, said he started the design in late spring, when a potential funding source was not yet known. "We worked feverishly on this," he said.

The new building will be built to LEED Gold certification standards from the U.S. Green Building Council, Scott said.

As in 2008, the Virginia Garcia Center used the day to honor a few of its exemplary workers and partners with Healthcare Hero awards. Mu□ assisted by Wu, presented plaques to Rosalia Ginsburg and a stand-in for Marie Napolitano, who is traveling in China. Both are registered nurses who have worked in the clinic's mobile service for migrant worker camps.

Providence Health & Services' Priscilla Lewis and Steve Fletcher, regional director for Community Services and Development, and Steve Fletcher, Community Relations manager accepted awards for their organization.

In his introduction, Munoz spoke of the clinic's modest start in 1975. "The first grants that supported doctors in that three-car garage came from Providence," he said.