

**The Albuquerque City Council
Proclamation for First Choice Community Healthcare, Inc.**

SPONSORED BY: CITY COUNCILOR KEN SANCHEZ

PROCLAMATION TO RECOGNIZE THE 40th ANIVERSARY OF FIRST CHOICE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE, AND THE VALUE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE PROVIDED BY FIRST CHOICE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE.

WHEREAS, First Choice Community Healthcare, Inc., was established in 1972 as Albuquerque Family Health Center in the South Valley of Albuquerque with the help of key partners, and

WHEREAS, First Choice is a federally qualified, joint commission accredited health care delivery system that has provided primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to underserved and uninsured populations of the mid-Rio Grande valley of central New Mexico for the past forty years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque and First Choice have partnered to provide access points in city service centers to primary care and create permanent health care homes for the residents of Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, the communities served by First Choice lie within a five-county area that is the statistically most populated metropolitan area in the state, making First Choice a top choice as a healthcare home for a target population of seven hundred thousand people; and

WHEREAS, First Choice is governed by a community-based, volunteer board of directors that reflects the ethnic, racial and economic diversity of the communities in which First Choice is located, and more than fifty percent of the board members are users of First Choice services; and

WHEREAS, First Choice operates eight health centers strategically located in Albuquerque, Los Lunas, Belen and Edgewood and one school-based health clinic located at Rio Grande High School in the South Valley of Bernalillo County; and

WHEREAS, First Choice serves everyone, regardless of insurance status, and all of its health centers provide discounts to patients through a sliding fee scale; and

WHEREAS, all First Choice patients have access to federal 340B contract (discounted) pharmacy services and have access to specialty and hospital care through established patient referral patterns; and

WHEREAS, First Choice employs over three hundred thirty individuals, seventy of whom are licensed providers of health care, including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dental hygienists and behaviorists; and

WHEREAS, in response to the need to increase access to primary care services in the mid-Rio Grande valley of central New Mexico, First Choice has doubled its capacity to serve over the last five years including a new South Valley Health Commons, a new South Broadway Health Center and coming in September 2012, a new Los Lunas Family and Community Health Center; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, First Choice provided a health care home to sixty thousand people who visited more than two hundred sixty-eight thousand times to receive care in a twelve-month period, which included medical, dental, counseling and the women, infant and children (WIC) program encounters; and

WHEREAS, First Choice collaborates with the University of New Mexico Hospital, the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, the Department of Health, city, county and local governments, the federal government, other local service providers and the community to structure innovative models of care and service delivery that maximize the collective resources for the betterment of the communities served; and

WHEREAS, First Choice has been recognized nationally as a leader and innovator in primary care health service delivery "model" development; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, First Choice was named community health center of the year by the membership of the New Mexico Primary Care Association;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY The Albuquerque City Council that the City of Albuquerque recognizes the value and contributions to the City provided by First Choice Community Healthcare Inc.; and BE IT FUTURE RESOLVED THAT the Albuquerque City Council does hereby proclaim April 2012 as **First Choice Community Healthcare** Month and encourage all City officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in First Choice Community Healthcare 40th Anniversary Celebration Activities.

DONE, this 19th day of March, 2012, in the City of Albuquerque, State of New Mexico.

ATTESTED BY:

County Clerk