



UMC

UNCOMPAHGRE MEDICAL CENTER

**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2010

**Uncompahgre Medical Center Expansion Increases  
Health Care Access in Western Colorado**

NORWOOD, Colo.— Today Uncompahgre Medical Center (UMC) hosted the grand opening of its expanded building. The expansion makes it possible for UMC to double the size of its dental facilities, increasing availability of oral health care services. In addition, a community conference room was added for staff meetings and trainings and is being used by community groups such as Health Watchers, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Substance Abuse Counseling. The Midwest Center for Mental Health is also onsite, making UMC a true health care home.

“We’ve been able to expand from one dental chair to four in less than two years, helping us address generations of unmet oral health care needs for low-income people in our area of the state,” said Steve Siegel, executive director of UMC. “Local, state, federal and foundation support have all helped our dental program and we are deeply grateful.”

Construction of the UMC expansion was funded by a grant from the Construction Improvement Program for federally qualified health centers, a grant program created by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the federal economic stimulus package; and by The Colorado Health Foundation. The construction project employed a total of 45 people in various trades in the region.

“The new and improved Uncompahgre Medical Center in Norwood serves as a shining example of all the great things that have been happening in our area as a result of the stimulus package. The \$436,000 in federal stimulus funding helped create jobs during the construction phase, up to 45 people worked in various stages of this project. Now that it is completed, the clinic will be able to serve more members of the community than ever before – helping rural Coloradans meet their basic health care needs,” said U.S. Rep. John Salazar, who attended the grand opening.

UMC is one of the 15 federally qualified community health centers (CHC) in Colorado. UMC has been caring for people in the frontier region of west San Miguel and west Montrose counties as a federally supported community health center for 31 years. Uncompahgre Medical Center is a full-service family practice, offering a full range of primary and preventive medical and dental services. UMC is equipped with digital x-ray, emergency room and lab capabilities that ensure the highest degree of care.

###

To interview Mr. Siegel, please call (970)327-4233, or e-mail [steve@umclinic.org](mailto:steve@umclinic.org). For more information about UMC, please visit <http://www.umclinic.org/>.

*CHCs provide high-quality, comprehensive, primary health care in areas of high need, care for patients regardless of ability to pay, and are governed by community boards of which the majority of members are patients. CHCs are nonprofits or public agencies with a mission to provide health care to low-income working families, and they offer a sliding fee scale to keep health care affordable. For more information about Colorado's 15 federally qualified community health centers, please visit the Colorado Community Health Network at <http://www.cchn.org>.*