

WILMINGTON HEALTH ACCESS FOR TEENS COMPLETES MERGER WITH COASTAL HORIZONS CENTER, INC.

Wilmington Health Access for Teens (WHAT) and Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. have merged and will now operate as Wilmington Health Access for Teens of Coastal Horizons Center, Inc. The merger, effective July 1, 2016, recognizes a common mission of both organizations and provides greater efficiencies in delivering primary medical and mental health care, along with preventative services to adolescents and young adults in New Hanover County. The intent to merge was first announced in March. WHAT's office at 4005 Oleander Drive will remain open for walk-in and scheduled appointments. The school-based clinics at New Hanover, Laney and Ashley high schools will re-open at the start of the 2016/17 school year. And a new WHAT clinic will open at Hoggard High School near the beginning of the academic year, given recently approved funding by the New Hanover County Commissioners. Coastal Horizons Center President and CEO Margaret Weller Stargell will oversee the new entity as part of Coastal's continuum of community health care. Joy Grady, who has served as the executive director of WHAT for six years, will serve in a consultative role with WHAT of Coastal Horizons Center.

Since its founding in 1997, WHAT has specialized in adolescent health and school-based health care with the goal to enhance young people's accessibility to high-quality care, including prevention and risk-reduction education. "WHAT and Coastal Horizons have a long history of working together in providing access to health education, mental health counseling and primary care services to adolescents and their families. As one entity, we will have greater impact and broader reach in our community," said Ms. Grady.

"Collaborations, mergers and acquisitions are a growing trend in the healthcare industry, and Coastal Horizons Center and WHAT are

excited about creating greater efficiencies and effectiveness in our delivery of healthcare services, such as developing a more robust electronic medical record (EMR) as well as continued delivery of evidenced based practices to better improve the outcomes for both the adult and adolescent populations we serve,” said Margaret Weller–Stargell, President and CEO of Coastal Horizons Center, Inc.

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