APLA Health

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Long Beach Health Center Celebrates Grand Opening
Federally qualified health center offers free and low-cost medical, dental, and behavioral health care services to the LGBT community in Long Beach and surrounding South County communities

(Long Beach, CA; Aug. 11, 2016)—APLA Health is proud to announce the grand opening of our fully completed Long Beach Health Center. Now entirely operational, the Long Beach Health Center offers medical, dental, and behavioral health care services, encompasses 7,000 square feet of space, and has the capacity to serve more than 5,000 patients per year. A grand opening event was held Aug. 10 and was attended by many community members, as well as elected officials such as U.S. Rep. Alan Lowenthal.

The Long Beach Health Center provides free and low-cost services with a focus on providing care to LGBT individuals. Services are available on a sliding-fee scale and include:

- Primary medical care
- Dental care
- Behavioral health care
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) counseling and management
- HIV testing and STD screening and treatment
- Health insurance enrollment assistance
- Vaccinations

The health center originally opened this past winter with limited primary medical care and PrEP services. Construction continued on additional portions of the space throughout the spring. The health center began offering behavioral health care services in May, and dental services began at the beginning of August when the new, four-chair dental clinic was completed.

The Long Beach Health Center is a federally qualified health center funded in part by a $650,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration.

"Culturally competent health care is not a luxury. All individuals should have access to services that keep them healthy and providers who understand them," APLA Health CEO Craig E. Thompson says. "Our new health center is designed to address the specific needs of medically underserved communities and particularly LGBT individuals, who experience higher rates of depression and substance abuse, among other issues. We're proud to be a part of the strong community network in Long Beach and ensure people can comfortably access care they need."

The Long Beach Health Center is located at 1043 Elm Ave., Suite 302, in Long Beach on the St. Mary Medical Center campus and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. (closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.). All services are available in English or Spanish.

For additional information about current APLA Health services and locations, please call 562.432.7300 or visit www.aplahealth.org. You can also follow APLA Health on [Twitter](http://twitter.com) or on [Facebook](http://facebook.com).

This project is funded in part by L.A. Care Health Plan and will benefit low-income and uninsured residents of Los Angeles County.

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APLA Health's mission is to achieve health care equity and promote well-being for the LGBT and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV. We are a nonprofit, federally qualified health center serving more than 14,000 people annually. We provide 20 different services from 15 locations throughout Los Angeles County, including: medical, dental, and behavioral health care; PrEP counseling and management; health education and HIV prevention; and STD screening and treatment. For people living with HIV, we offer housing support; benefits counseling; home health care; and the Vance North Necessities of Life Program food pantries; among several other critically needed services. Additionally, we are leaders in advocating for policy and legislation that positively impacts the LGBT and HIV communities, provide capacity-building assistance to health departments across the country, and conduct community-based research on issues affecting the communities we serve. For more information, please visit us at aplahealth.org.