

CITY OF PEABODY

24 LOWELL STREET
PEABODY, MA 01960



P. 978-538-5700
F. 978-538-5980

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

MAYOR TO OPEN STUDENT HEALTH CENTER AT PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL

Mayor Edward Bettencourt is pleased to announce the opening of the “Peabody Veterans Memorial High School Student Health Center,” to be dedicated in honor of former Massachusetts Senator Frederick Berry at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 6, 2015. The Student Health Center is a collaboration between the City of Peabody and North Shore Community Health Inc. (NSCHI), a federally-qualified community health center which operates and staffs the Student Health Center. The Center was established with generous donations from the J.B.Thomas - Lahey Foundation, Boston Children’s Hospital, and Energi, Inc., as well as with grant funding from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.

Mayor Bettencourt states, “School-based health centers are a proven model to help keep students healthy and in school. Students will have access to on-site primary care for things such as physicals, immunizations, and case management of chronic health conditions like diabetes and asthma, as well as behavioral health services.” Superintendent Joseph Mastrocola notes, “Healthy students are better equipped to learn. The Student Health Center is integral to the efforts of the Peabody Public Schools to provide an environment to support educational achievement.”

The Student Health Center will be managed by Nurse Practitioner Allison Kilcoyne of NSCHI, and will also be staffed with an office manager and a licensed mental health clinician. Ms. Kilcoyne states, “North Shore Community Health, the board of directors and I are thrilled to be back at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. During my career, I have personally seen the positive impact of SBHCs on the health and education of students, families and communities. To be able to give back to the school that prepared me for success in life is a dream come true.” The Center will also provide nutritional counseling and other health education services.

“Lahey Medical Center Peabody and the J.B. Thomas – Lahey Foundation take great pride in giving back to city of Peabody,” said Nicole DeVita, Senior Vice President, Operations, Lahey Medical Center. “Supporting a critical initiative like the Peabody Veterans Memorial High School Student Health Center delivers on our tradition of promoting thoughtful, strategic programs designed to improve the health and well-being of Peabody’s residents. We are delighted to contribute to the Student Health Center’s success. ”

"Boston Children's Hospital is honored to be a part of this collaboration that has partnered to open the Student Health Center at Peabody Veterans Memorial High School. We look forward to the good work that will be accomplished for the school community to promote healthy living," said Jane Venti, Executive Director, Satellite Administrative Operations at Boston Children's Hospital.

The new health center is dedicated in honor of former Massachusetts State Senator Frederick E. Berry, who served the City of Peabody for over 30 years before his retirement in 2013. Improving access to quality health care was a signature issue for Senator Berry throughout his career.

School-based health centers can improve students' health status by eliminating barriers that many families face in accessing health care, such as transportation, parent work schedules, or insurance status. The Student Health Center will be open every day that school is in session. Students are accepted regardless of insurance status. During school breaks, students may be seen at North Shore Community Health Center's Foster Street clinic, or at their own primary care provider.

Information packets and enrollment forms for the Student Health Center will be available in April. Parents may reach Student Health Center Director Allison Kilcoyne at (978) 536-4720.

###