



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 25, 2012

CONTACT: Kelly Coffey, Media and Public Relations Manager
Office: (860) 610-5701; kcoffey@connecticutchildrens.org

CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER LAUNCHES OFFICE FOR COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH

New Initiative Leverages Hospital Resources to Support Community-Oriented Programs

HARTFORD, Conn. –Connecticut Children's Medical Center is proud to announce the launch of the Office for Community Child Health (OCCH), a center dedicated to developing and supporting community programs that promote children's optimal healthy development.

“At Connecticut Children's, we have a vision to make Connecticut's children the healthiest in the country,” says Connecticut Children's President and CEO Marty Gavin. “We recognize the Office for Community Child Health as a pioneering, signature part of that effort.”

The 12 Connecticut Children's programs under the OCCH umbrella are Help Me Grow National, a program that was piloted in Hartford in 1997 and is being replicated in 15 states; Easy Breathing, which was launched in Hartford and is now a nationally recognized asthma treatment and training program; Special Kids Support Center; Growing Up Healthy/Hartford Childhood Wellness Alliance; Co-Management Program; EPIC (Educating Practices in the Community); REACH (Resident Education in Advocacy and Community Health); LAMPP (Lead Action for Medicaid Primary Prevention); Injury Prevention; Charter Oak at Connecticut Children's; Maintenance of Certification; and Hartford Youth HIV Identification and Linkage Consortium.

“The goal of the Office is to promote the effectiveness of existing programs currently supported by the Medical Center and to serve as an ‘innovation incubator’ for new programs addressing critical community issues,” explained Dr. Paul H. Dworkin, physician-in-chief of Connecticut Children's and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dworkin, who founded the OCCH, is currently transitioning into his new position as Executive Vice President for Community Child Health at Connecticut Children's.

The Office for Community Child Health at Connecticut Children's will develop and test health service delivery models that address community, state, and health system needs. Many new programs will be piloted in Hartford with the goal of seeing them replicated on state and national levels.

Interest in the OCCH has come from regional and national funders, and children's hospitals around the country. "The OCCH is part of a goal for the future of children's hospitals and their effect on communities," says Dworkin.

The permanent location for the Office of Community Child Health is 111 Founders Plaza in East Hartford, a satellite location of Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

About Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Connecticut Children's Medical Center, the region's only academic medical center dedicated exclusively to the care of children, is committed to improving children's physical and emotional health through family-centered care, research, education and advocacy. Named one of America's Best Children's Hospitals by U.S. News and World Report, Connecticut Children's offers a full range of quality pediatric services at its hospitals in Hartford and Waterbury, NICUs in Hartford and Farmington, Specialty Care Centers in Farmington, Glastonbury, Hartford and Shelton, and 11 other practice locations.

For more information, visit www.connecticutchildrens.org and connect on Facebook (www.facebook.com/connecticutchildrens) and Twitter (@tchildrens).

###