



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 2015

CONTACT:
Dan Reynolds
(231) 547-7629
d.reynolds@nwhealth.org



www.nwhealth.org

Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center receives multiple community grants
School-based health center slated to open in August

GAYLORD – Thanks to the efforts of various community partners, the Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center in Gaylord High School is under construction and slated to open in August. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan and Gaylord Community Schools want to thank the Otsego County United Way, the Youth Fund at the Otsego County Community Foundation, and the Northern Health Plan for awarding grant funds to defray construction costs not covered by Gaylord Community Schools and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

“We have received such a warm welcome and positive response from our community partners and Gaylord families,” said Erika Van Dam, Director of Community Health Services for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “On behalf of Gaylord Community Schools and the Health Department, we’re very grateful to all funding sources for their financial assistance. With their help, renovations at the school are coming along very well.”

Nicole Montgomery, Community Health Coordinator for the Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center shared, “Community partners, along with parents and youth, have been strong advocates for the health center. In the last couple of months, Gaylord High School students on the Youth Advisory Committee chose the paint colors, health center décor, and the name!”

One of those community partners and strong advocates is Otsego County United Way. “The Health Department and Gaylord Community Schools are doing something really special—they’re making physical health and behavioral health services available and accessible to all youth ages 10 through 21, and they have recognized that youth who are healthier physically and emotionally learn better in school,” said Keith Moore, Executive Director at Otsego County United Way. “We wanted to be a part of their vision.”

The Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center will provide primary health care and behavioral health services year-round for youth ages 10 through 21 from Otsego County and surrounding communities. Youth need not reside in the Gaylord School District to receive services at the health center. The health center links youth and their families to primary care providers in the area and supplements their care while youth are in school. Medicaid and other health insurance policies will be accepted, and services are provided at no charge, as they are based on a sliding fee scale of the youth’s income. Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center staff can also help families enroll in Medicaid/Healthy Kids, MICHild, or the Healthy Michigan Plan. For more information, visit www.nwhealth.org.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.