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HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
of Northwest Michigan

www.nwhealth.org

Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center celebrates grand opening on September 14

GAYLORD – Otsego County’s newest health center—the Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center—is celebrating its grand opening on Monday, September 14. The event will feature an open house beginning at 6pm, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 6:45pm. The clinic, which is based out of Gaylord High School, is a collaboration between the Health Department of Northwest Michigan and Gaylord Community Schools. Parents, students, and school staff are invited to tour the new facility, along with legislators, community members, and the press.

“Clinics like the Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center are a great investment in our youth,” said Erika Van Dam, Director of Community Health Services for the Health Department. “Children and youth served by school-based and school-linked health centers show improved rates of school attendance, less absenteeism due to illness, and increased immunizations rates, while having their wellness and health-care needs addressed.”

Van Dam said the event will include speakers from Gaylord Community Schools and the Health Department, as well as facility tours, Q&A sessions, refreshments, and informational material.

The Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center provides primary health care and behavioral health services year-round for youth ages 10 through 21 from Otsego County and surrounding communities. In addition to these physical and mental health services, the center offers information for parents and guardians on nearly any topic related to adolescent health. 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. Staff can also help families enroll in Medicaid/Healthy Kids, MICHild, or the Healthy Michigan Plan.

The Gaylord Blue Devil Wellness Center is open 7:30am-4pm Monday through Thursday, closing daily for lunch 11:30am-noon; on Fridays, the clinic operates 7:30am-noon. Appointments are available year-round, and same-day appointments may be available during its hours of operation. Call the Health Department at **(989) 732-6890** or **(800) 432-4121** to schedule an appointment or visit www.nwhealth.org for more information.

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.

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