

NEWS RELEASE:

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Blue Ridge Community Health Services Welcomes New Medical Director

(Hendersonville, NC) Blue Ridge Community Health Services (BRCHS) announced that Shannon Brown Dowler, M.D., ABFM, FAAFP, has joined the medical staff as Medical Director, effective September 14, 2009.

Dr. Dowler brings a wealth of medical leadership experience to the position. She has served as the Medical Director for Buncombe County Medical Society Project Access for two years and recently served as the Interim Medical Director at Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care. She is the Chair of the Buncombe County Medical Society Foundation, and is in her second year as Secretary/Treasurer of the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians. Prior to joining Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care, Dr. Dowler was a member of the medical staff at the Buncombe County Health Center.

A frequent public speaker, Dr. Dowler has established herself as an advocate for patient education, with special interests in community health, adolescent care, sexually transmitted disease prevention, and quality improvement in primary care settings.

Dr. Dowler received her medical degree from Brody School of Medicine in Greenville, SC, and completed her residency in Family Medicine at MAHEC-Asheville. She is Board Certified in Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice.

Blue Ridge Community Health Services has been serving Hendersonville and the surrounding communities for more than 45 years, providing high quality, affordable medical and dental care, increasing access to health care for all, with special emphasis on the underserved and the uninsured. BRCHS health centers include the William F. Stokes Jr. Dental Center, the Kate B. Reynolds Children's Center, Blue Ridge Family Practice, and school-based health centers at Apple Valley Middle School, North Henderson High School, and Bruce Drysdale Elementary School. BRCHS is accredited by the Joint Commission. Additional information about the health care services provided by BRCHS is available online at www.brchs.com.

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