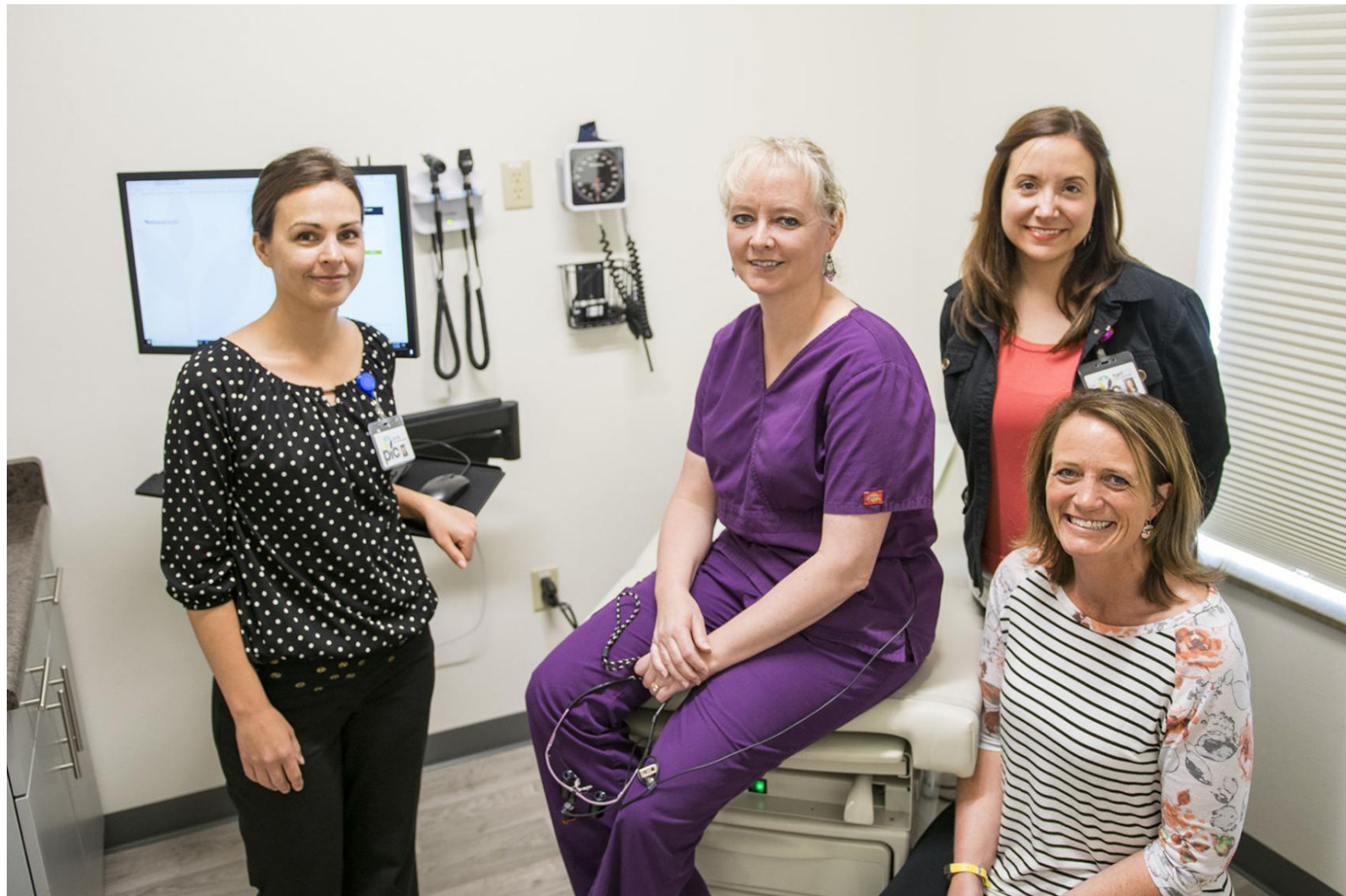


http://www.montrosepress.com/news/grant-gives-pic-place-nice-boost/article_17a5ee26-3ed8-11e8-b1dd-b73b442652e4.html

FEATURED

Grant gives PIC Place nice boost

Andrew Kiser Apr 13, 2018



The PIC Place PAC Lacey Estes, left, Dental Director Amiee Rawlings, Care Coordinator April Martinez and Executive Director Melanie Hall share their excitement about the grant the organization has received on April 12.

(Sydney Warner/Montrose Daily Press)

When The PIC Place Executive Director Melanie Hall looked across her medical clinic recently, even she found it hard to believe that just over a year ago the location was a vacant car wash.

“We did a complete renovation and outfitted it with everything that was needed,” Hall said Thursday morning in her office, which once held garage doors that led into the car wash. “We have doubled our staff size, did our professional development, launched the model and we did 10,000 appointments in the second half of the year after opening (in June 2017).”

The PIC (Partners in Integrated Care) Place is a nonprofit health center that provides mental, physical and dental services. The local facility, 87 Mercant Drive, was one of 10 Colorado nonprofit health practices on April 9 that was given funding from the Denver-based organization Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, or DDCOF, to hire a full-time dental hygienist. The money came from wave two of DDCOF's Colorado Medical-Dental Integration Project (CO MDI). CO MDI's goal is to help families who have restricted access to dental care.

The foundation's enterprise will provide \$3.3 million over four years to the 10 providers. In total, PIC will receive \$223,600 during that span from the DDCOF, Hall said.

April Martinez, The PIC Place care coordinator, expressed her excitement over the nonprofit's first 10 months of operation.

"It's been kind of a whirlwind around here," she said. "We have been working at a very fast-pace because we have been working on patient needs, figuring out the integration and improving our quality all the time."

Another team member will help too.

"The finance support is huge," she said. "The training, technical assistance that comes with it is amazing."

Hall added the new hygienist will be the third full-time dental specialist that PIC has on staff (the nonprofit also has two part-timers). By hiring an additional member, Hall said she expects wait time to be shorter for patients.

The eventual staffer will also allow the opportunity for a third dentist to join, Hall said, adding she didn't think that prospect would be obtainable until a couple years down the line.

"That's super exciting because that was two years quicker than I thought it would be (available)," Hall said.

Martinez, who helped complete the application process for the grant, said she was thrilled about the potential quality PIC can have thanks to the funding.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to enhance the services that are available in the community and do more outreach," Martinez said. "I think this grant will help us to do that."

The site wasn't the only Montrose County health service awarded funding as River Valley Family Health Center in Olathe also received the endowment (officials with River Valley weren't available to comment for this story; see an upcoming edition of the Montrose Daily Press about the center's grant).

The PIC Place hasn't started the appointing process yet, but Hall predicted the hiring team would select a new dental hygienist by sometime in the summer months. "This gives us more access to our community," she said. "That's such a big deal to have more opportunities to get medical care or dental care ... This can open up another skilled professional in our community who is available to help people."

Andrew Kiser is the Montrose Daily Press' sports/business writer. Follow him on Twitter @andrew_kpress.