

## **Summary of Final Report**

**Organization Name: Open Door Community Health Centers**  
**Project Title: Open Door Telehealth and Visiting Specialist Center**  
**Amount of Grant Award: \$135,000**  
**Date of Final Report: 9/29/06**

### **1. What were the project goals and were they achieved?**

The project goals were to remodel and equip a state-of-art telemedicine center. These goals were achieved. The center began seeing patients on December 5, 2005.

### **2. What were the activities undertaken and accomplishments through the completion of this grant?**

A Grand Opening took place on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Hundreds of people attended the afternoon-long event.

The center includes a conference room with equipment, which allows video conferencing for meetings and distance learning. Telemedicine equipment in the medical exam rooms allows doctors in Eureka to treat patients located in remote rural clinics throughout the region. Since the Telehealth and Visiting Specialist Center opened, the majority of doctor visits have been transmitted within Humboldt County rather than to another area.

As far as seeking opinions out of the area, psychiatry, dermatology and endocrinology are three of the most used services, since there is a severe shortage of those providers locally.

### **3. What are the lasting benefits of the project?**

The entire community is impacted by the project. The Telehealth and Visiting Specialist Center increases access to specialty medical care. Telemedicine benefits the community by retaining more healthcare dollars locally. Increasing access to specialty medical care supports local employers and makes our region more attractive to new businesses and retirees. Finally, the Telehealth and Visiting Specialist Center can be used for distance learning, allowing medical providers to attend trainings given anywhere, while remaining in the area.

A vision for the future is that Humboldt can become a “telehealth hub,” bringing specialists here to serve the whole region rather than feeding off metropolitan areas.

### **4. How will you continue work started by this project?**

Services at the center are increasing and will continue indefinitely. These services will be funded by patient and insurance carrier reimbursement.