Two Meridian Health Services’ facilities, MeridianMD, a primary care clinic, and the Suzanne Gresham Center, a children’s treatment center, have been awarded Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike health center status.

“Becoming an FQHC allows us to integrate more fully in existing clinics, adding primary care to areas that are underserved and reach patients that do not have adequate access to healthcare,” states Hank A. Milius, President/CEO of Meridian Health Services.

What is an FQHC?
Federally Qualified Health Centers help ensure that communities across the country have access to healthcare. An FQHC has been identified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration and certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for serving populations with limited access to healthcare.

“By Meridian Health Services’ designation as an FQHC, we will truly be able to fulfill a new approach to health that integrates physical, mental and social well-being,” states Amelia Clark, Meridian’s Vice President of Community Health.

FQHCs have long served the ‘whole patient’ and not separated services as a better approach to meeting patients’ needs.

This progressive approach to integrated healthcare positions Meridian Health Services favorably with major healthcare systems and insurers, which will ultimately help decrease the costs of healthcare in these areas. In addition, Hank Milius notes that integrated care reduces hospital admissions and costs.

“Patients will be able to receive coordinated care from Meridian’s qualified staff of doctors, nurses, therapists and other professionals to address the different components of health,” stated Clark.

“It is clear that this patient-centered approach for whole person health can greatly benefit patients.”

The reimbursement structure of FQHCs allows health centers to build valuable services such as transportation and patient education into their reimbursement so that they can best meet the needs of patients. In traditional healthcare settings, the reimbursement structure is prohibitive for private physician practices to offer such a wide range of services to patients.

In addition, the Affordable Care Act will help provide affordable preventative health services that can help individuals avoid illnesses and generally improve health. Preventative techniques can slow the advance of conditions and make a patient’s eventual treatment much less expensive. Individuals will also be more likely to receive recommended preventative health services such as screenings, vaccinations and counseling if no copayment or deductible has to be paid.

Since Meridian Health Services is focused on an integrated approach for ‘whole person’ health and is a community-based health center, we have already set forth to provide individuals quality, streamlined, cost-efficient care even as the healthcare environment continues to change.

Affordable Care Act
When the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the Affordable Care Act in June 2012, it opened the door to improvements in the way healthcare providers such as Meridian Health Services can help patients. “Most Americans agree that the current healthcare system is unsustainable and improvements are necessary,” stated Meridian Health Services’ President/CEO, Hank A. Milius.

“The Affordable Care Act has initiated the dialogue among our government to start making steps in the right direction to address the healthcare needs of our nation. Priorities have also been identified such as providing healthcare coverage for all Americans, expanding healthcare accessibility and encouraging preventative health services.” For example, Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alikes (FQHCs) like Meridian Health Services are set up to be prepared to meet the anticipated healthcare demand of millions of people who will gain healthcare coverage.
Doctors Join Medical Staff

Meghana Bhat, MBBS earned her medical degree from Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in India before moving to Indiana in 2005. She completed her residency in psychiatry from the Indiana University School of Medicine. She brings experience in treating patients and war veterans at Wishard Midtown Mental Health Center, IU Health University Hospital, Larue Carter State Hospital and VA Hospital. Dr. Bhat will be providing inpatient psychiatric services to seniors through the Meridian’s Geri-Psych program at IU Health BMH.

Hector Diez, MD earned his medical degree at Universidad del Valle (Valle University), Cali, Colombia. He completed his psychiatry residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – New Jersey Medical School. Dr. Diez was a physician at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami and at a primary care clinic in Cali, Colombia. He is a member of American Psychiatric Association and the New Jersey Psychiatric Association. Dr. Diez will be providing adult out-patient psychiatric services at Meridian’s Richmond and Muncie locations.

FosterHope, a division of Meridian Health Services, is one of the few foster programs in Indiana that specializes in the needs of children with behavioral issues. Meridian identifies and trains special families to provide therapeutic care with the hope of reuniting children with their families.

FosterHope provides each child and family with a connection to integrated care that addresses each child’s variety of needs and coordinates care.

Mary Grey, a foster licensing and adoption specialist for FosterHope, takes great pride in the FosterHope program because it has a variety of supports that other agencies don’t offer. She specifically refers to Meridian’s emphasis on “whole person” health.

“Do you know exactly how important water is to being healthy? Water makes up 75% of the human body and helps our cells and organs function. When we don’t drink enough water, our body becomes dehydrated which can occur any time during the year. Children and the elderly should take special care to stay hydrated.

Dehydration can also happen when someone has a fever, heat exposure, excessive exercise, vomiting, diarrhea and anytime you aren’t able to eat or drink. Some symptoms of dehydration are thirst, dry mouth, increased heart rate and weakness. If dehydration is not corrected, it can lead to confusion, kidney failure and death in extreme situations.

“While I was trying to regain my health, the one thing I didn’t feel like I had to worry about was Kyle. I knew that he was being taken care of,” Kelli said.

In May 2012, Kyle was reunited with his family. His mom regained her health and his dad, Mark, returned to the home.

“I would recommend Meridian Health Services because they have talented individuals who are very dedicated at making things work out for these children,” said Mark.

FosterHope is a special program that can truly make a difference in the life of a child with special needs.
We’re calling this outreach effort ‘Wheeling for Healing’, kits to be deployed with field clinicians immediately.

$200 and part of the Rialzo funds will pay for 30 of these and other educational materials for families. Each kit costs

The kit is a portable suitcase on wheels filled with

Services. “Our therapists need therapeutic tools at their

Richardson, Regional Manager of Childrens’ Clinical

conducted either in the home or at school, “ said Margaret

“Many of our sessions are

Meridian’s front line staff

which will enhance how

clients in the field.

“We’re calling this outreach effort ‘Wheeling for Healing’,” said Margaret Richardson, Regional Manager of Children’s Clinical Services. “Our therapists need therapeutic tools at their fingertips to be most effective.”

The kit is a portable suitcase on wheels filled with therapeutic tools, skill building puzzles, games, ice-breakers and other educational materials for families. Each kit costs $200 and part of the Rialzo funds will pay for 30 of these kits to be deployed with field clinicians immediately.

“We’re calling this outreach effort ‘Wheeling for Healing’,” said Vice President of Clinical Services, Bob Coles. “We want people to know we can come to them. And we want the public to know that they too can donate and have a kit provided to our growing staff that’s meeting a growing need.”

Last year, Meridian provided programs and services to over 5,000 area children in need.

Save the date for Rialzo IV

Saturday, March 16

Dave implemented a unique alternative school program with the help of Meridian in Portland, Indiana that integrated educational and behavioral services for children that are unable to tolerate a regular classroom setting. The program has had great success for these children being able to complete their education and receive critical behavioral services. The success of this program has encouraged other school corporations to implement it along with Meridian’s children and Connections program services.

Employee Winner

Deceil Moore
Regional Clinical Manager

Deceil has been with Meridian 18 years. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and recognized as an expert in providing treatment for people with the dual diagnosis of intellectual disabilities and mental illness.

Deceil is a founder of Meridian's Connxxions program that has been providing treatment for the dual diagnosis population for the past 10 years. The Connxxions program currently serves 25 Indiana counties serving over 1,000 clients and is now recognized as the leading mental health provider in Indiana for this population. Deceil also educates people on a state and national level by presenting at many seminars on treatments for dual diagnosis.

Suicide continues to be a major public health concern worldwide. Suicide claims approximately 1 million lives each year. That’s one suicide every 40 seconds. In our country, 50% more Americans die by suicide each year than by homicide.

Experts believe that most suicidal individuals do not want to die. They just want to end the pain they are experiencing. Therefore, when suicidal intent or risk is detected early, lives can be saved.

Meridian Health Services is providing Suicide Prevention Training Programs and depression screenings in the community. This program is offered free of charge to community organizations that are the “eyes and ears” of people who are potentially at risk of suicide. To learn more about these programs, call Meridian Health Services at 765-288-1928 and speak to Eileen Moore. Organizations that have participated are now better able to recognize suicidal signs and take appropriate action steps to prevent suicide and save lives.

Suicide Prevention Week

September 9–15

“Bringing Families and Communities Together”

Located in the Morrison Mock Professional Center

3620 W. White River Blvd. in Muncie

Connect with family, health and safety resources through local organizations

MeridianMind, primary family medical care services for children and adults

FosterHope & adoption information

Kid safety photo IDs by Life Touch

Seth Cook of “Cook and Belle” band musical performance

Cornerstone Center for the Arts dance performances

Live radio broadcast

Meridian opens Indy Office

Recently, Meridian Health Services opened its first office in Indianapolis. Located in a professional building north of downtown Indianapolis, Meridian offers Indianapolis residents of any age a spectrum of behavioral health services and outpatient therapy. Some services are designed specifically for children such as FosterHope, a therapeutic foster care program. Wraparound home-based services integrate different types of services together so that a child’s care is coordinated and effective. Case management and outpatient therapy services are provided for children, adolescents and adults. Connections, Meridian’s program for individuals with both intellectual disabilities and mental illness, is also offered at the Indianapolis office.

On-site staff members include licensed clinicians, master level therapists and psychiatrists. A public open house is planned for this fall to introduce the community to Meridian’s staff and services.
Thank You
To Our Contributors
Donate to Meridian Health Services
www.meridianhs.org/About/Donate
Find us on facebook
www.facebook.com/MeridianHealthServices

You Can Make a Difference
Meridian cares about the people who come to us and the communities that rely on us. Meridian’s 650 employees work hard to provide a wide variety of specialty health programs and services to people who need it most, serving over 16,000 individuals a year. Your investment in Meridian Health Services will support the value of high quality, personalized healthcare, which integrates physical, mental and social well-being. It will help to ensure Meridian’s not-for-profit programs and services will continue to be provided, support new and innovative programs, and create a legacy of care for the future.

The field of healthcare is drastically changing with state and federal funding diminishing, resulting in many vital programs in our industry being eliminated. Community and individual support are keys to helping continue such needed programs.

You can make a difference! Your contribution can help us be available to people within our area for years to come.

Get to Know Us
Meridian Health Services is a progressive healthcare organization specializing in “whole person” health integrating physical, mental and social well-being. The focus on a broader spectrum of health including primary medical care, behavioral health and human services offers a well-rounded approach for healthier patients. Meridian Health Services has been serving the community for over 35 years and is accredited by the Joint Commission.

Services We Provide
• Primary family medical care
• Psychiatric medical services and hospitalization
• Counseling and therapy
• Children and family programs
• Child Advocacy Center for children affected by abuse
• Addictions and chemical dependency services
• Geriatric-psychiatric services for senior adults
• Home, community and school-based services
• Homelessness and independent living support
• HIV care coordination
• Programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges
• Case management, skill building and supported employment
• Therapeutic foster care and adoption

Locations
MERIDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

Main Office
Muncie
240 N. Tillotson Ave.
Muncie, IN 47304
765-288-1928

Richmond
16 S.W. 5th St.
Richmond, IN 47374
765-983-2220

New Castle
930 N. 14th St.
New Castle, IN 47362
765-521-2450

Portland
931 W. Water St.
Portland, IN 47371
260-766-9548

Winchester
730 W. Washington St.
Winchester, IN 47394
765-584-7820

Rushville
Primary family medical care
509 Conrad Harcourt Way
Rushville, IN 46173
765-932-3699

Indianapolis
2506 Willowbrook Pkwy.
Indianapolis, IN 46205
317-815-2270

Suzanne Gresham Center
Serving children and families
Pediatric medical care
3620 W. White River Blvd.
Muncie, IN 47304
765-288-1928

MeridianMD
Adult medical care
110 N. Tillotson Ave.
Muncie, IN 47304
765-288-8770

Gero-Psychiatric Hospital
Specialty care for seniors (at IU Health BMH)
2401 W. University Ave.
Muncie, IN 47303
765-747-3281

866-306-2647
www.MeridianHS.org