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**\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

**TO:** Public News Media Sources  
**FROM:** Joel Strasz, Health Officer  
**DATE:** January 14, 2015  
**RE:** **University Clinic Set to Open at the Bay County Health Department**

The Bay County Health Department, in conjunction with Saginaw Valley State University’s College of Health and Human Services is pleased to announce the opening of the University Clinic beginning next Tuesday, January 20, 2015. The University Clinic is a product of a \$1,500,000 grant from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to Saginaw Valley State University. The clinic is designed to meet the medical needs of medically underserved families and individuals in our community, particularly those who suffer from multiple chronic conditions and do not have access to a regular medical provider.

Patients with multiple chronic conditions, such as diabetes or hypertension, may be offered a variety of services in addition to medical care including occupational therapy, social work, and nutritional and pharmaceutical counseling. The chronic disease management program will focus on giving patients the tools to understand and monitor their own conditions so that they can lead a healthy and productive life. Wellness checks are available to patients in need of a general checkup and to those with questions about health maintenance and preventive screening.

It is important to note that the clinic is not an urgent care center for the entire community. Persons with urgent care issues such as cuts, abrasions, injuries and sudden acute illnesses should seek treatment at an emergency room or one of the several urgent care clinics in the community.

The clinic will initially be open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

There are two ways to become a patient at the clinic. First, if a prospective patient does not have health insurance, they are asked to contact the Bay Health Plan at 989-895-4008 and make an appointment to go through eligibility screening to determine if they qualify for Medicaid, Medicare, private health insurance through the exchange system, or benefits through the Bay Health Plan itself. Patients without insurance must complete their eligibility determination prior to making an appointment at the clinic. If a prospective patient already has insurance (Medicaid, Medicare, Blue Cross, Health Plus, etc.) they may call the University Clinic directly at 989-895-2035 to schedule an appointment.

For more information on the University Clinic at the Bay County Health Department, please visit the webpage at <http://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health/University-Clinic.aspx>

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