

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Flora, IL -- CCH Medical Clinic and Clay County Hospital Rehabilitation Department expansion ground breaking ceremony and “splash” took place at the clinic on Tuesday, August 7, 2007. Clay County Hospital has contracted with AKRA Builders of Effingham to complete the construction project.

The expansion includes a 1,240-square-foot addition and 640-square-foot renovation on the Northwest side of the clinic to include two physician “pods” which entails six examination rooms, two nurse’s stations, two dictation stations, and a physician office/lounge area. This portion of the project will provide space for two additional medical providers.

The addition also includes a 2,232-square-foot addition to the East end of the building which includes three therapy treatment rooms, three occupational therapy rooms (that will double as sleep study rooms and a control room at night), an aquatic therapy pool room, two restrooms, and a mechanical room.

The addition of an aquatic therapy pool will enhance the land-based therapy program already provided at the facility. Water provides buoyancy and viscosity, two physical properties utilized in aquatic therapy. Buoyancy decreases the compression forces of gravity on the joints allowing earlier and less painful participation in the rehabilitation program. Viscosity provides three-dimensional resistance to movement, thus allowing gentle strengthening. For patients with arthritis, water supports the joint and prevents high-impact, abrupt movements.

The total project will also include some interior renovations at the reception desk and therapy office as well as additional parking spaces. The additional reception space will allow the clinic to accommodate the many patients checking in for the services of their primary care providers as well as the many specialists that provide care at the clinic. Currently there are 12 visiting specialists with approximately 430 patient visits per month.

The Medical Office Building Expansion Committee began meeting in November of 2006 to plan for the project. The committee members are Gary Whitehead, Susan Batchelor, Dr. Annette Schnabel, Dr. Galen Lueking, Linda Newby, Kim Chaney, Jessica Lewis, and Jacob Hartke. Ground work on the project will begin Monday, August 13, 2007, with a six month anticipated completion date.

The “splash” ceremony was performed by members of the expansion committee: Jim Allison, Manager of Plant Services; Linda Newby, RN, Clinic Lead; Kim Chaney, RN, Clinic Nurse; Jessica Lewis, MSPT, Rehabilitation Lead; and Jacob Hartke, PTA, Physical Therapist Assistant.

The ground breaking was performed by Chad Armstrong, AKRA Project Manager; Gary Whitehead, Hospital Committee Chair; Sue Petit, Clay County Board Chair; Susan Batchelor, Clay County Hospital President; Dr. Galen Lueking, MD, Clinic Medical Director; and Dr. Annette Schnabel, DPT, Director of Rehabilitation and Physician Services.