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North Port Health Center to add 10 exam rooms and triple visit capacity

The Sarasota County Commission Tuesday approved a major expansion of the North Port Health Center that will nearly triple its health visit capacity for area residents.

Located at 6950 Outreach Way in North Port, the existing 7,084-square-foot building with eight exam rooms will be expanded by about 5,266 square feet, which will allow an additional 10 exam rooms. The Sarasota County Health Department provides primary care and other personal health services for about 6,500 area residents. Health center managers expect the center to serve as the primary care home for 15,000 patients. Health visit capacity is expected to increase from 12,000 to 35,000 visits annually.

The commission approved a \$1,811,650 construction contract to DeAngelis Diamond Construction Inc. of Charlotte County. The facility will be designed to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver designation as a sustainable, "green" building from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Construction is expected to begin in July with completion in December. The Florida Department of Health also plans to construct a 2,000-square-foot tobacco education building on the site.

Funding for the renovation and expansion project will be from a combination of sources: a federal grant administrated through the Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Department special project funds, a Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice grant and the county infrastructure surtax (penny sales tax).

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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