



**Third Street Family Health Services**

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**Mansfield Family Health**

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**Hawkins Medical Center**

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**Five Points Primary Care**

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**Shelby Health & Wellness Center**

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**Third Street Family Health Services, Nicole Williams, COO  
House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services  
Testimony on House Bill 166 – April 10, 2019**

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West and Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity for Third Street Family Health Services (TSFHS) to provide testimony on House Bill 166.

At a time when Ohio faces a shortage of primary care physicians and providers, the Ohio Primary Care Workforce Initiative (OPCWI) has been an advantageous tool for our Health Center. I've seen firsthand how this successful program has supported our efforts to recruit and retain the next generation of primary care providers at Third Street Family Health Services.

Third Street Community Clinic, dba, Third Street Family Health Services, is a health center corporation based in Mansfield, Ohio. TSFHS originally opened in 1994 as a small part-time free clinic, and grew quickly into a full-time comprehensive health center program. TSFHS operates its main site along with several smaller satellites within Mansfield, and one in Shelby in northwestern Richland County. TSFHS' current service area also stretches into one low-income rural area in northeast Crawford County adjacent to the Shelby area. The target population of TSFHS consists of the individuals with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty limit and who have Medicaid, are uninsured or underinsured as well as others who need access to quality health care.

TSFHS is Joint Commission accredited and has earned PCMH recognition. TSFHS also earned 2018 recognition from HRSA for being a National Quality Leader in the categories of Access Enhancer as a Health Disparities Reducer.

We are only able to provide a quality focused and comprehensive array of services if we have a strong, sustainable workforce. The Ohio Primary Care Workforce Initiative (OPCWI), housed at the Ohio Department of Health (ALI440-465) has allowed TSFHS to teach, inspire, and put to work our next generation of primary care providers by exposing students to rich clinical experiences in our network of advanced, modernized primary care settings. **The OPCWI also allows for TSFHS to find these providers without paying a recruitment cost, which is extremely important to our bottom-line.** Since May 2016, TSFHS has hired three full-time dentists and four full-time nurse practitioners, which is an overall savings for TSFHS in recruitment fees of approximately \$120,000.



The savings the OPCWI provides is extremely important to TSFHS, as it allows TSFHS to continue to leverage additional resources, expand services, create new primary care access, and address health disparities for our patients.

The four nurse practitioners hired using OPCWI work collaboratively with our Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers to ensure our patients received the best quality of care. Each provider we add to our team is crucial to our MAT success, as TSFHS acknowledges that substance abuse is a significant problem that affects our patients and community. The needs of our patients and community exceed the need for general primary care. It is the practice and policy of TSFHS to screen for and identify patients with substance abuse, dependency, and/or addiction. We are committed to providing quality primary care to our patients struggling with addiction by developing treatment protocols, training for providers and providing MAT services to patients.

Two of the nurse practitioners hired using OPCWI also help supervise our Community Health Workers (CHW). TSFHS CHWs serve families by providing prenatal and early childhood education by acting as consultants with Ohio Help Me Grow, Ohio Moms and Babies First, Medication Assisted Treatment MAT/PADOA, and Managed Care Case Management. CHWs work hard to prevent child abuse, improve birth outcomes, reduce infant mortality, and improve so many other social determinates.

Overall you can see that our mission is one that is filled with many challenges and having OPCWI allows for those challenges to be a little less.

On behalf of the patients and communities TSFHS serve, I respectfully request full restoration of the state's investment of the OPCWI program in the state biennial budget, House Bill 166. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to know more about the OPCWI Program at our Health Center or if you would like to learn more about the innovative care we provide.