

## Ground broken for new medical center

By John Mulcahy Copyright © 2013 The Daily Telegram 09/27/2013

ADRIAN — Family Medical Center of Michigan Inc. officials and other dignitaries were on hand Thursday to break ground for a new medical and dental facility at 1220 N. Main St. in Adrian. About 75 people attended the event, which included a lunch and remarks by several speakers. The new facility will be built on land just north of the River Raisin bridge on North Main Street. A log cabin-style building on the site will be demolished. The Family Medical Center of Michigan is a federally qualified community health center that operates medical clinics at two sites on Riverside Drive in Adrian and a dental clinic on South Broad Street. The organization provides services to low-income and uninsured people, as well as those with Medicaid or other insurance. The organization served 12,779 patients in Lenawee County in 2012. Ed Larkins, CEO and executive director of Family Medical Center of Michigan, said the organization was begun in Monroe County in 1979 to care for “medically indigent” people there. “That vision of 1979 still shines brightly in Adrian and Lenawee County,” Larkins told the gathering.

The organization continues to operate a medical clinic in Monroe and also operates medical and dental clinics in Temperance and Carleton. The new, 19,000-squarefoot building in Adrian will have 17 examination rooms and an expanded number of dental chairs. The building also will have space for the Michigan Department of Human Services and the Lenawee Community Mental Health Authority. The new facility is expected to cost \$5.3 million, \$5 million of which will come from a federal grant announced in 2012. The organization expects to move into the new facility in a year, Larkins said.

David Brown, chairman of the board of directors of Family Medical Center of Michigan, said there are 1,200 federally qualified community health centers nationwide, with more than 9,000 delivery points. In Michigan, 36 federally qualified centers operate 220 delivery sites serving 600,000 people, 70 percent of whom have incomes below the federal poverty line, Brown said. “That’s why the health centers have been a true safety-net provider for our communities,” Brown said. Adrian Mayor Greg DuMars, who spoke at the groundbreaking, said the city is “fortunate” to have the new center. “The people of Adrian are the real winners here ... and the people in the surrounding county,” DuMars said.



**Ed Larkins, CEO of Family Medical Center of Michigan, speaks Thursday at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new medical and dental facility in Adrian. TELEGRAM PHOTO BY DAVE SCHAMBERGER**



**Adrian Mayor Greg DuMars, left, and FMCM Board members Dr. John Lark, middle, and Burt Fenby, break ground at the proposed sight of the FMCM Adrian branch on Thursday. TELEGRAM PHOTO/DAVID SCHAMBERGER**