

Resolve 8- 07/08

Passage: 2-4-08 8-0 (Mavodones absent)

EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
DANIEL S. SKOLNIK (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

JAMES I. COHEN (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CREATION OF MORE
NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED HEALTH SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has a neighborhood health center located in the Sagamore Village area of the City which provides preventive health services to hundreds of citizens;

WHEREAS, the Sagamore Village Health Center is a partnership between the University of Southern Maine College of Nursing and Maine Medical Center, and nursing students who complete their community service at this center visit residents regularly, complete individual health assessments and, while working with a nurse practitioner and other certified nurses, make referrals to health care providers;

WHEREAS, this health center in Portland has shown that by doing triage care and regular evaluations of residents in that area, it has been able to dramatically cut costs in the health care system by reducing the number of visits to emergency rooms;

WHEREAS, preventative health services such as the Sagamore Village Health Center have been shown nationally to reduce costs in emergency rooms by providing care to consumers earlier and thereby preventing exacerbation of health issues;

WHEREAS, the Sagamore Village Health Center has worked with the neighborhood since 1999 to reduce health risk factors, by organizing neighborhood crime watches, providing more education on safety, and educating residents on how to reduce violence; and as a result, calls for police services have been drastically reduced, declining dramatically each year that the neighborhood health center has been in the Sagamore area.

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is aware that the State legislature faces enormously difficult budgetary decisions and may ultimately be forced to reduce some healthcare programs, and as a result, these health centers will become more important than ever in terms of providing triage care and health services to some residents who may see a reduction in services because of the cuts in state services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Portland City Council express their support for legislation to create more of these neighborhood health resource centers in Portland and other parts of the State. We believe that this model of health care holds tremendous promise in that it provides better access and reduces emergency room costs; in this regard, we ask the Maine State Legislature to help the

cities and towns of Maine bring health services closer to communities by supporting the funding of these health centers which will in turn reduce health risk factors and reduce state and municipal healthcare costs.