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Coatesville City Council Gives Final Approval for Brandywine Health & Housing Center

COATESVILLE – At its meeting last night, the Coatesville City Council voted unanimously to give final approval for the Brandywine Health & Housing Center’s land development plan. The Center is being developed by the Brandywine Health Foundation, and will be a four-story, 50,000 square foot building providing 24 units of affordable senior housing, and a permanent location for ChesPenn Health Services, Community Dental, the Child Guidance Resource Center, and Human Services in Coatesville.

According to the foundation’s President and CEO, Frances Sheehan, “we have been nothing but grateful for the City’s efforts to help the project move forward as quickly as possible. We were able to secure all ten properties needed to make the building and parking possible, and demolition of those buildings is now complete. We hope to begin construction by late November so that our tenants, who are eager to move into the expanded space, are in by January, 2008.”

Sheehan acknowledged the financial support of the Commonwealth’s Department of Community and Economic Development, the County’s Department of Community Development, and the Federal Home Loan Bank, which have provided a combined total of \$2.6

million for the project. The Coatesville Redevelopment Authority has also donated two properties to the project so that there would be sufficient parking.

Sheehan went on to say “Pending are a loan application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the first and fourth commercial floors of the building, as well as an application for low income housing tax credits to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for the second and third housing floors. We hope to hear from both funders within the month.”

Since its founding in 2001, the Brandywine Health Foundation has provided over \$3.3 million in grants to non-profits improving the health of the residents of central and western Chester County. Its largest grant of \$1 million was to open a Federally Qualified Health Center in the City of Coatesville - ChesPenn Health Services. Since ChesPenn’s opening in temporary headquarters in the 1000 block of East Lincoln Highway, it has served more than 1,000 patients with primary care and pediatric services; its prenatal program opened earlier this month.

The foundation has also assisted in the start-up of Community Dental in Coatesville, bringing the Child Guidance Resource Center’s behavioral health services to all of the Coatesville Area School District’s schools, supporting the Maternal and Child Health Consortium’s Insurance Outreach Program, and launching Chester County Cares’ Prescription Assistance Program.

For more information about the foundation, please visit www.brandywinefoundation.org.

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