

Meet Health Care Provider Tera Roberts

Tera Roberts is a Vernonia resident and Nurse Practitioner who will be working at both of the new health clinics that are opening in Vernonia. Spencer Health and Wellness is the new school based health center that opened on January 11 at the Vernonia School. The Vernonia Health Board is scheduled to open the Vernonia Health Center on February 19.



Roberts went back to school in 2005 at Portland Community College. She continued her studies at OHSU and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, graduating in 2009. She immediately entered the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at the same time. She graduated from the FNP program in 2011 and the DNP in 2012.

Roberts did her residency at the Mountain View Medical Center in Forest Grove. She says she chose that clinic specifically because Bob Guisti worked there. Guisti had previously practiced in Vernonia when the clinic here was run by Providence Health. "I sought him out and asked to do my residency there because I wanted to work with someone who had seen this population before and wanted to be in a practice that had a rural setting to get a better feel for it," says Roberts. "Most of my clinicals that I was able to choose where they would be, I always selected locations that were rural, public health based or had under served populations."

In fact, Roberts says that during her DNP program she studied in what was called the "Rural Tract." "Part of that training included looking at the effects that lack of insurance has on rural populations, the difficulties in maintaining health care in rural areas, and the barriers of geography for certain populations," says Roberts. Roberts did her doctorate dissertation on providing sustainable health care for rural populations.

Roberts says that during her training she was given opportunities to work in Astoria at the Columbia Woman's Clinic, at the Sacagawea Health Center, a school based health center in St. Helens, at the Richmond Clinic in Portland which mostly serves uninsured or underinsured people, and the Perry Center in Portland which works with children with mental health issues.

Roberts will work as the only provider at the Spencer Health and Wellness. At the Vernonia Health Center, Roberts will have a Medical Assistant working with her; Laura Onderdonk is also a Vernonia resident who brings teaching and EMS experience to the new health center.

Roberts has four children who have graduated from the Vernonia school system and has four other children still in school in Vernonia.

It's Time to Sign Up for 4-H

The Vernonia 4-H Club Critters R Us reminds you that it is time to enroll in 4-H for the 2013 year. This photo shows club members with "medals" in 2012 after competing in the annual Barnyard Olympics at the Ely's farm. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H member, please contact Kara Orr at the Columbia County 4-H office 503-397-3462 or Dee Stringfield at 503-318-6484 if you have an animal project area of interest. Note: this club does not offer leadership for horses.



Spencer Health and Wellness

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Roberts says she is especially excited about a new electronic charting system that will be used to track patient medical records. Spencer Health and Wellness will use the EPIC electronic medical records system, which is widely used throughout medical systems and allows providers to share medical histories quickly and efficiently. The new electronic system will also be used at the Vernonia Health Center which is scheduled to open on February 19.

"With this EPIC system we are able to access records from other systems that use EPIC," says Roberts. "If they are patients that have been in the Providence system or the OHSU system it will make it a lot more seamless for us and the patients."

Appointments at Spencer Health and Wellness can be scheduled by calling 503-429-1399. The clinic will also take walk-in appointments.

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VERNONIA HEALTH BOARD
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF
THE VERNONIA HEALTH CENTER
FEBRUARY 19, 2013



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