



*Centralia, WA* – Northwest Pediatric Center (NWPC) has been designated as a Foster Care Center of Excellence by [Coordinated Care](#), the Washington State Health Care Authority’s sole health plan responsible for managing the healthcare of the state’s approximately 21,000 youth involved in the child welfare system including foster care, adoption support and alumni of foster care. Northwest Pediatric Center will serve the Department of Children, Youth and Families’ (DCYF) Region 6, which encompasses 11 counties in southwestern Washington state.

[Foster Care Centers of Excellence](#) are recognized as multidisciplinary medical centers where youth in the child welfare system receive coordinated healthcare services. To qualify as a Foster Care Center of Excellence, a healthcare provider must meet more than 50 criteria proving its ability to provide a higher standard of care and access to resources for children who suffer from trauma.

“In addition to meeting the numerous standards for this recognition, Northwest Pediatric Center offers a range of services available in one location, including a pediatric walk-in clinic available 7 days a week, an integrated behavioral health team, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, and patient rooms designed with children in mind,” said Beth Johnson, President and CEO of Coordinated Care. “Coordinated Care is pleased to award Northwest Pediatric Center as a new Foster Care Center of Excellence.” Founded in 1992, Northwest Pediatric Center’s mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this community: caring for this county’s underserved pediatric population with the same kind of compassion, grace, excellence, and integrity that Jesus showed. Families and children touched by foster/kinship care and adoption have often been overlooked as a group that needs better access to specialized healthcare. As a Foster Care Center of Excellence, NWPC will be an entry point for healthcare for the entire family touched by foster care, kinship care and adoption.

Northwest Pediatric Center features over a dozen board-certified pediatricians and certified pediatric nurse practitioners, a robust Integrated Behavioral Health Team comprised of several therapists and a Community Health Worker, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, and a dietician. In addition, Dr. Deborah Rodriguez, who serves as our Foster Care Program Director, is one of 12 nationally designated Trauma Informed Champions with the American Academy of Pediatrics. All of these team members work together to provide compassionate, whole person care using a trauma-minimizing approach to address the physical, emotional, and social health needs of the children and families entrusted to their care.



Coordinated Care President and CEO Beth Johnson with Dr. Debbie Rodriguez, NWPC Foster Care Program Director, and Dr. Lily Lo, NWPC Medical Director.



Dr. Debbie Rodriguez giving Coordinated Care staff a tour of the NWPC clinics.