

NJPCA & NJSORH

Winter 2009

State of the State Address

New Jersey's Pride, Character Key to Facing Future, Governor Says in Annual Address to Lawmakers

Press Release – Office of the Governor
January 12, 2009

TRENTON - Governor Jon S. Corzine highlighted his record of progress today in the annual state of the state message and offered a vision of hope and optimism for the future of New Jersey as the state weathers the national economic crisis.

"Today, as we assess the state of our state and look ahead to the challenges of 2009, I cannot help but feel an overwhelming sense of pride in the people of New Jersey," Governor Corzine said. "Despite the challenges of today's national economic crisis, the people of our state are pushing forward in building better schools, broadening



access to health care, making our streets safer, and building a more secure world."

Governor Corzine noted that over the past year, New Jersey has advanced efforts to combat hunger, provide home energy assistance, and proactive initiatives to prevent home foreclosures - all in response to the slumping national economy. New Jersey's foreclosure prevention program is now recognized as a national model for other states, and has achieved national recognition in several quality of life categories:

* With the Bush Administration threatening to remove 10,000 New Jersey children from the Family Care health insurance program, the state expanded the program to include a child mandate and enrolled more working and moderate-income families. The state also increased grants to community health centers.

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NJPCA on the State of the State Address

NJPCA

**Katherine Grant-Davis,
President and CEO**

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*newsletter design and layout-
Judy Rynkewicz*

The New Jersey Primary Care Association (NJPCA), which represents the 19 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the State of New Jersey, is very appreciative of the support from Governor Corzine and his administration. FQHCs have been at the forefront of primary and preventive health care for the last 40 years. Currently these 19 centers administer over 90 sites (including school based sites, sites for migrants, sites for the homeless, sites for dental care, and comprehensive primary care sites), they provide care to an estimated 350,000 patients on an annual basis, and provide over a million patient visits a year. Governor Corzine recognizes the value of these centers and is trying to ensure that they remain financially viable.

In addition to State funded support, the centers have seen an increase in the level of federal support over the years. President Bush doubled federal financing for community health centers, which helped to create or expand 1,297 sites in medically underserved areas, including some in New Jersey. President Barack Obama's nominee for Health and Human Services, (HHS) Secretary Tom Daschle, says he hopes to bring more money to community health centers than ever before. Daschle says there is "no question" whether he is supportive of the concept of a significantly expanded community health center program – he is.

The centers on a national basis, and here in New Jersey, are seeing more patients than ever before. Nationally the number of

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State of the State Address

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* This month, Education Week magazine rated New Jersey one of the top five school systems for overall performance, and number two in providing a chance for graduates to succeed. Governor Corzine fought to authorize \$3.9 billion in new school construction funds to leverage up to \$5.4 billion, which will be used to upgrade standard facilities.

* In 2007, New Jersey achieved a 7 percent reduction in violent crimes and an 11 percent reduction in the murder rate. In the first three quarters of 2008, violent crime was down by 7 percent and murders down by 6 percent. Highway deaths are down 17.8 percent since last year, the lowest level in 25 years.

Governor Corzine said such accomplishments would not have been possible without the strong will of New Jerseyans.

"Our state has long been blessed by its deep well of talent and by the character of its people - people who have built, in good times and bad, a tradition of achievement and excellence," Governor Corzine said. "Our determination remains strong, our drive undiminished, and our work ethic knows no bounds."

While economic concerns remain "priority number one, priority number two, and priority number three," Governor Corzine said the state must not turn its back on long-term strategic objectives, such as reforming and restructuring state finances, improving government ethics, enhancing public safety, improving the educational system, and protecting the state's most vulnerable citizens. Noting that substantial, meaningful reforms are now in place, the state must go the extra mile and continue "doing more with less."



NJPCA on the State of the State Address

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health center patients has swelled to more than 16 million patients. Many of those patients are the newly uninsured due to the economic downturn. The FQHCs are known for operational efficiency while at the same time they are effective in reducing racial and ethnic disparities in medical treatments. The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) estimates that health centers save the health care system \$17.6 billion a year in avoidable emergency room visits.

For the upcoming year, Governor Corzine will continue to take direct action in working with municipalities to help contain property taxes and has instructed the Local Finance Board to strictly enforce the 4 percent tax levy cap. He has also asked for concrete recommendations on shared services and consolidations and is directing COAH to provide maximum flexibility for review of the affordable housing plans.

In addition, Governor Corzine has called for a one year moratorium on the 2.5 percent developers' fee and exempting projects that were in the pipeline before the fee was instituted. The Governor also proposes the establishment of a long-term funding source for open space preservation.

"Through all of these initiatives, we're planting the seeds for prosperity," Governor Corzine said. "We are positioning as many people and businesses as possible to survive the national recession and then thrive once the inevitable recovery begins."

All of these elements, he said, meld together in an overall strategy for economic recovery and a better quality of life for all citizens.

"New Jersey has a strong character because its people believe in the common good," Governor Corzine said. "I've been blessed with good fortune in my life like many of you, and I have a responsibility to give something back. I may not always say what is popular, but you can be sure that it comes from the heart."

"We may not always agree, but we share a common commitment to making the world a better place for this generation, and the next."

In spite of this ongoing support, many centers around the country and in New Jersey find themselves in difficult financial straits due to the increasing uninsured, and belt tightening in federal programs such as, SCHIP, Medicaid, and Medicare. 75% of FQHCs in New Jersey are not making a profit. That is why it is so very important to have the support of Governor Corzine and this administration to support the work of New Jersey's FQHCs.

HRSA Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative Zufall Health Center in Dover NJ

The Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC) is designed to spread leading practices that have been proven to improve patient safety and health outcomes and have successfully implemented clinical pharmacy services.

The aim of this Collaborative is to ensure that patient care delivered by safety-net organizations and their partners become the safest and best in the nation by employing interdisciplinary, patient-centered approaches to integrate the provision of clinical pharmacy services and safe medication practices at each point of care. Central to this aim is providing safety-net organizations and their community-based partners with the tools and skills to improve care, decrease errors, and realize cost savings.

During the 18 month process of the PSPC, *Learning Sessions, Action Periods, web training and listservs* are being used to measure, report, and track improvements. Expert faculty are on hand to help teams adapt, test, and implement successful practices selected from the "Change Package". A "Change Package" details the leading practices that result in successful performance.

For the purposes of the PSPC, clinical pharmacy services are defined as patient-centered services that promote the appropriate selection and utilization of medications. Its objective is to optimize individual therapeutic outcomes. Clinical pharmacy services are

provided by a multi-disciplinary health care team through individualized patient assessment and management. These services are best provided by a pharmacist or by another healthcare professional in collaboration with a pharmacist.

Collaboratives use a *fast paced, interactive improvement method*. The way to test changes, called the Model for Improvement – developed by Associates in Process Improvement – is taught at the Collaborative Learning Sessions [adapted from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Breakthrough Collaborative Series method]. Action Periods follow the Learning Sessions where teams return home to apply what they have learned using the Model for Improvement. *Continuous, small scale, rapid testing* leads to adaptation of leading practices to fit local conditions.

Over the 18 months of the collaborative, Zufall Health Center in Dover NJ will be working to improve the health outcomes and safety of diabetic patients and patients on Warfarin. They will follow this aim through the integration and implementation of the Care Model to include clinical pharmacy services. Improvements will be realized by the following measured outcomes: 1) Average HbA1c <9%; 2) INR/PT in range; and 3) No adverse effects from the medication.



Zufall Health Center
Pat Weinstein, Rina Ramirez, MD, Mayra Soto



Saint Clare's Hospital
Cliff Moore

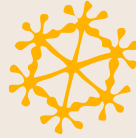


Goodale's Pharmacy
Robert Pergola



NJPCA
Linda Whitfield-
Spinner

The Obesity Initiative: Community Health Centers are Weighing In on Obesity Prevention and Weight Management Education



AtlantiCare Health Services holds monthly weight management classes and a diabetes support group for the uninsured and homeless residents of Atlantic City. The weight management class, run by a registered dietitian, is offered to all patients with a body mass index (BMI) ≥ 30 .

CAMcare Health Corporation has developed guidelines around obesity assessment and evaluation for providers and has devised an interdepartmental nutrition referral process for patients identified as obese.

Community Health Center, Inc., signed up to be a We Can! (Ways to Enhance Children's Activity and Nutrition) Community site; They have titled their program H.A.N.D.S. (Health and Nutrition Develops Strength) and will use the We Can! curriculum to teach children about healthy eating and physical activity in weekly group sessions at multiple sites. In addition, H.A.N.D.S. and the S.T.E.P.S. program through Garden AHEC- SJHS have formed a coalition called- Bridgeton Childhood Obesity Coalition and are currently in the process of creating a mobile children's health fair.

Eric B. Chandler Health Center has developed and implemented obesity progress notes and flow sheets that assess all pediatric patients for weight, height and BMI at all Well Child Visits. A nutrition referral is given to all children who have an elevated BMI (greater than the 85th percentile on the pediatric growth charts) and each child and family receives nutrition intervention from a registered dietitian. In addition, a support group for parents and children ages 4-16 was formed in November and meets the third Thursday of every month for 6 months. Lastly, Eric B. Chandler provides follow-up nutrition care and counseling to patients seen in the Robert Wood Johnson Community Education Program, "New Start."

Henry J. Austin Health Center, Inc., continues with the S.W.E.E.T. (Successful Wellness by Eating and Exercising Together) program. An 8 week pediatric nutrition and physical activity program for parents and children with a focus on weight maintenance. S.W.E.E.T is multidisciplinary and is staffed by a dietitian, a child psychologist, a physician and a personal trainer as well as a data coordinator.

Horizon Health Center hosts a weekly Children's Nutrition and Exercise Program on Fridays at 3:30pm. Children and parents are educated on healthy food choices, portion size, the food guide pyramid and calorie

intake. A 40-minute exercise routine is included in weekly sessions. The program is staffed by a pediatrician, a nurse, a medical assistant and a clerk.

Jewish Renaissance Medical Center is using The Quitman Street School after school program to implement the We Can! Childhood Obesity Prevention Program curriculum to their healthy weight and overweight/obese students in grades five through eight who attend the after school program.

Metropolitan Family Health Network designed a Nutrition Referral process for any adult with a BMI ≥ 30 and any child with a BMI that plots above the 95th percentile. Patients receive an initial individual session as well as follow-up sessions with a registered dietitian and are encouraged to attend group classes.

Monmouth Family Health Center chose to focus on their overweight prenatal population. Initial BMI's are obtained for all prenatal patients and those who are overweight and/or obese are referred to the dietitian or WIC nutritionist for nutrition counseling.

Newark Community Health Centers, Inc., has a registered dietitian provide basic nutrition information to adults regarding making healthy choices and lifestyle modifications to promote healthy weight in a class titled "Beat Away the Pounds with Education, Diet and Exercise." Weekly exercise classes are held to promote increased physical activity.

North Hudson Community Action Corporation holds monthly healthy lifestyle education classes at each of North Hudson's 7 sites. Sessions are conducted by the community health educator in both English and Spanish with the goal of weight reduction and healthy lifestyles.

Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc., created a new template in the electronic medical record to capture BMI data, 5-2-1-0 education and self-management goal documentation for pediatric and adult patients. This summer, the pediatric department piloted a weekly fitness program that targeted children ages 3-5 years old and their parents. In addition, Ocean Health Initiatives has signed up to be a We Can! community site.

Project H.O.P.E., Inc., implemented a 6-week "Biggest Loser Weight Loss Challenge" to all patients in the data warehouse with a diagnosis of diabetes, asthma or hypertension with a BMI ≥ 30 and new patients identified with any of these diseases. Partnerships were formed with Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Our Lady of Lourdes Wellness Center for a registered dietitian to provide nutrition information to patients. In addition, weight loss and nutrition education were incorporated into "Diabetic Thursday" classes to reach more people.

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Closing the Gap on Health Care Disparities: A State Overview in New Jersey

**Hosted by
Assemblyman Herb
Conaway**

“Heart disease is the leading cause of death in New Jersey. Even more alarming is that African Americans in New Jersey have the highest mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (CVD) of any other nationality in the state according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.”

At the invitation of Assemblyman Herb Conaway, a number government, health care, academic and community leaders/advocates attended a forum titled “**Closing the Gap on Health Care Disparities: A State Overview in New Jersey**” to learn more about CVD in New Jersey and what is being done to create a healthier community and state.

Ms. Linda Holmes, Executive Director of the NJ Office of Minority and Multicultural Health was the keynote speaker. A panel of speakers, who shared with the group how the issue was being addressed by their organizations, rounded out the program.



Pictured above: (left to right)

Phillip Bonaparte, MD – Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield NJ, Geoffrey A. Gallo, Linda Holmes – OMMH, Assemblyman Herb Conaway, Linda Whitfield-Spinner – NJPCA, Kathleen B. Kostecki – PSEG, Robin Rison-McCoy – Black Ministers’ Council of NJ, Robert Gogats – Burlington County Dept of Health (Missing from the photo: Louise Ragin – National Black Nurses Association)

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 21st, 2008, at the Barry Brown Health Education Center at Virtua West Jersey Hospital in Voorhees, NJ

The forum co-sponsors were AstraZenca and Virtua Health.

Source: Invitation from Assemblyman Herb Conaway, M.D.

The Obesity Initiative

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Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers started “Successful Journey For Motivating Change, Promoting Healthy Lifestyles; 10-4-10 Program.” This program encourages obese patients to lose 10 pounds in 4 sessions and win \$10.

Visiting Nurse Association of New Jersey Community Health Center continues to hold its weekly, 75 minute, Weight Control Group run by the registered dietitian. Since the Obesity Initiative, both program referral and size have increased and incentives have been incorporated for motivation.

Zufall Health Center implemented a six week weight management program, “Lifestyle Education Program” with an aim to reduce average BMI by 5% and improvement in average HbA1c or blood pressure by 5% in diabetic or hypertensive patients. In addition all patients at the health center, who are identified as obese, are educated on the Plate Method for weight management and blood sugar control.

Keep it up!



Updates from the Office of Disaster Preparedness:

Department of Homeland Security to launch private sector accreditation and certification preparedness program

Acting on recommendations from the 9/11 Commission, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will establish a voluntary private sector preparedness accreditation and certification program. The “PS-Prep” program will assess whether a private sector entity complies with one or more voluntary preparedness standards adopted by DHS. PS-Prep will raise the level of private sector preparedness by: establishing a system for DHS to adopt private sector preparedness standards, encouraging creation of those standards, developing a method for private sector entities to obtain a certification, and making preparedness standards adopted by DHS more widely available. With resources estimated to be 80-90% in the private sector—government entities and the public will look to the private sector for various assistance in all four phases of emergency management.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.femaaid=45280>

2008-2009 GRANTS

Notices of Grant Awards are currently being sent to FQHCs participating in NJDHSS All-Hazards Facility Preparedness Program. This grant cycle runs until August 8, 2009 and brings new preparedness and planning tools to FQHCs. New to this grant cycle are IS 300 training and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). IS 300 offers incident management teams a further look into the management structure of the incident command system and assists FQHC’s leadership to manage an expanded, complex event. HSEEP will be used by NJPCA and FQHCs to plan, execute and evaluate an exercise based on one of the fifteen National Planning Scenarios. FQHCs will be the focus of the exercise and will test their capabilities and preparedness levels in this multi-year exercise program.

TRAININGS

NJPCA recommends the following training for FQHCs:

❑ **IS 100** (Incident Command System-Beginner)—All Health Centers are mandated to take this course as established by NIMS Element 11. This course assists Centers in establishing an Incident Command Team and basic command/control functions in an emergency.

❑ **IS 200** (Incident Command System-Intermediate)—All Health Centers are mandated to take this course as established by NIMS Element 11. This course builds upon IS

100 and further instills the principles of ICS and ICS’s application in an emergency.

❑ **IS 700** (National Incident Management System)—All Health Centers are mandated to take this course as established by NIMS Element 9. This course assists Centers by unifying their preparedness efforts and coordinating their response activities under a multi-jurisdictional system.

❑ **IS 800** (National Response Framework)—All Health Centers are mandated to take this course as established by NIMS Element 10. This course explains the federal response mechanisms and how local, State and other agencies work together in Federally declared disasters.

❑ **Personal Disaster Preparedness**—This is a basic disaster awareness course that aids CHC staff to prepare personally for a disaster. Staffers create emergency communication plans, family disaster plans, emergency go bags, and pet supply kits.

❑ **Personal Protective Equipment and Fit-Testing**—This course assists CHC in donning and doffing their PPE and provides fit-testing on their N-95 respirators.

❑ **Crisis Communication**—This course prepares CHC staff to speak in a disaster. By providing brief but accurate and reliable information in an empathic manner, CHC can assist their patients in an emergency situation.

❑ **Soft Target Awareness**—This course provides participants with the seven signs of terrorism and teaches attendees how to recognize these signs and how to report them.

❑ **Psychological First Aid**—This course offers self-care information to CHC staff responsible for working during an emergency situation. Staffers learn how to manage the stress and anxiety of a disaster and how to more effectively handle those impacted by the disaster.

❑ **COOP and Business Continuity**—This course assists FQHCs with short and long-term mitigation, preparedness and recovery plans in the event of a disaster. The training module ensures the performance of FQHC’s essential function during an emergency and reduces the loss of life by minimizing damages and losses.

Please email Amelia Muccio at amuccio@njpca.org to discuss or schedule trainings.



NJPCA COLLABORATES WITH OTHER PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATIONS TO SPONSOR CONFERENCE ON THE HOMELESS POPULATION

The New Jersey Primary Care Association joined forces with the primary care associations of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware for a regional conference focusing on homelessness that was held at the Trenton Marriott Lafayette Yard on Friday, November 14, 2008. The conference theme, "The Diverse Face of Homelessness: Health, Hope and Dignity," spoke of the new face of homelessness, new initiatives to transition the homeless population into permanent housing, and the shift from managing to ending homelessness. Close to 100 individuals from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Maryland attended the conference.



Katherine Grant-Davis, Miguel McInnis, Chief Executive Officer, Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers, Mary Ellen Hombs, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Leslie Morris, Bernadette Johnson, Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers



Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula (District 17) makes remarks at the homeless conference.

Katherine Grant-Davis opened the conference with welcoming remarks along with Herb Levine, Executive Director of the Mercer County Alliance to End Homelessness, and Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula (District 17). Following the opening remarks, the audience was moved to tears by remarks from a young woman who spent much of her life in foster care. At the age of 18,

when she was faced with transitioning out of the state foster care system, she found she had nowhere to go. She credits Robin's Nest, a program in Gloucester County that assists homeless youth transitioning out of foster care, with helping her to become the person she is today. "With the help of the program, I finished high school and am now in nursing school studying to become a nurse," she said.

The keynote address was delivered via video by Philip Mangano, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. He spoke of the diverse face of the homeless population and the direction the country needs to take in order to eliminate homelessness. Following the keynote

address, there were break-out sessions addressing the impact of homelessness on young people and those in rural areas, and best practices related to serving the homeless population. These workshops were repeated in the afternoon. Workshop presenters on rural homelessness were Roxanne Wynn-Trotman (Community Health Care Association of New York State) and Kirsten Nicole Harris (PA Association of Community Health Centers), Debra Cornelius and Jackie Watkins (Robin's Nest) presented on homeless youth, and Ken Kraybill (National Health Care for the Homeless Council in Nashville, TN) conducted a workshop on motivational interviewing.



Herb Levine addresses group at Homeless Conference.

A panel discussion was held during lunch featuring Colleen Velez (NJ Corporation for Supportive Housing), Mark Manginelli (Atlanticare Healthcare for the Homeless), Lenny Ward (The New Jersey State Parole Board), Christy Prague (Homeless Services United, NYC), and Robyn Raysor (Housing and Urban Development – HUD). The panel discussion addressed clinical, policy and advocacy issues, moderated by Doug Berman of the Council for the Homeless in NYC.

Congratulations are in order for a job well done to Leslie Morris and Justine

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Medical Director Spotlight



Nancy Tham, MD, MBA is the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. (NCHC), the largest Federally Qualified Health Center in Essex County. Dr. Tham joined NCHC in July 2006 and provides oversight for all clinical programs throughout the organization. Nancy

received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Barnard College, Columbia University. She obtained her Medical Degree from Cornell University Medical College. In 1991, she completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at St. Lukes/Roosevelt Hospital in New York City. She is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a Fellow of the American Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. In 2006, Dr. Tham obtained her Executive MBA from Rutgers Business School in Newark, New Jersey.

Dr. Tham enjoys teaching and has held faculty positions as an Assistant Clinical Professor at UMDNJ, SUNY Health Center of Brooklyn, and Seton Hall University. In 2000, she was awarded the APGO (Associate of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics) "Excellence in Teaching" Award from Staten Island University Hospital. While at Staten Island University Hospital, Dr. Tham was responsible for coordinating resident and medical student education, as well as, coordinating the midwifery/physician assistant program in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

When Dr. Tham arrived at NCHC, she noted that HIV affected a large population in Essex County. She felt

that it was important to revitalize the HIV Program so that those affected and infected could be cared for at NCHC's 7 locations (4 in Newark, 1 in East Orange, 1 in Orange, 1 in Irvington). To date, NCHC has been successful in maintaining over one million dollars/year in HIV Grants. In addition to overseeing the HIV Program, Dr. Tham has been instrumental in obtaining various research projects with institutions such as: the Liver Transplant Department at UMDNJ, the Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities/UMDNJ, and the Clinical Directors Network. She encourages her staff to participate in various initiatives, such as the Diabetic Collaborative, the Asthma Collaborative, the Obesity initiative, and the Hepatitis C/TB initiative.

Dr. Tham has participated in the Governor's Advisory Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS and Blood Borne Pathogens, is an advisory board member for the SIDS Center of New Jersey, and is a member of the Northern NJ Maternal/Child Health Consortium's Regional Educational Committee.

Nancy was born and raised in the Lower East Side of New York City. She feels blessed to have been born into a bi-racial family with a Puerto Rican mother and a Chinese father. She has fond memories of growing up in a household full of ethnic meals, music, and celebration. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her friends, family, puppies (Lola and Choi), and cat Sally. Every year, they participate in the joys of celebrating Chinese New Year and a Feliz Navidad.

Homeless Conference

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Ceserano (NJPCA), Bernadette Johnson (Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Health Centers), Brian Colangelo and Vona Johnson (Project H.O.P.E.), Frank Jordan (Metropolitan Family Health Network), Kirsten Nicole Harris (PA Association of Community Health Centers), Doug Berman Council for the Homeless), Celia Gonzalez (Henry J. Austin Health Center), and Sarai Huertas (Atlanticare Healthcare for the Homeless).



Panel Discussion during the Homeless Conference

8th ANNUAL DIABETES DAY FAIR

On November 13th, the Building a Healthier Atlantic County Coalition sponsored its 8th Annual Diabetes Fair. Over the years the fair has grown and the number of participants increased. This year there were over 300 people in attendance. Almost 200 flu shots were administered, 102 blood sugar and cholesterol tests given. Hearing tests, dilated eye exams and pneumonia shots were also provided. The day provided an opportunity for health education as well as the provision of health services. It is greatly anticipated each year by the residents of Atlantic County. Planning has already begun for next year's health fair.



NJPCA 2008 HOLIDAY COAT DRIVE

In the spirit of the season, NJPCA staff collected new outerwear for children and youth in the Trenton area. Twenty-five brand new coats were delivered to the local Children's Home Society just in time for holiday delivery. Staff members display some of the coats collected below.



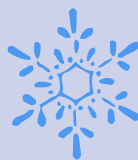
Region II Training Institute on Mental Health and Trauma

After having worked with a planning committee for almost a year, the Region II Office of the Department of Health and Human Services held its first Training Institute on Mental Health and Trauma on November 6, 2008. The conference titled "Supporting Strengths and Restoring Resiliency" covered a wide range of topics all focusing on a public health approach to provide education and prevention strategies around mental health and trauma. The conference was attended by 200 participants and extremely well received. In a world where stress invades day-to-day living, there is an increased need to find new and more effective ways of dealing with the trauma associated with stress.

NJPCA 2009 Board Meeting Dates

All Board Meetings will be held from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm in the NJPCA Boardroom.

January 13, 2009 – Tuesday
February 10, 2009 - Tuesday
April 14, 2009 - Tuesday
May 12, 2009 - Tuesday
June 9, 2009 - Tuesday
August 18, 2009 - Tuesday
September 15, 2009 – Tuesday
November 10, 2009 – Tuesday



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

January 6, 2009
February 3, 2009
April 7, 2009
May 5, 2009
June 2, 2009
August 11, 2009
September 8, 2009
November 5, 2009 - Thursday



CHCI Director of Women's Health Services Honored

(Bridgeton, NJ) – CHCI's Director of Women's Health Services, Dr. Michele Torchia, received a standing ovation during Governor Corzine's State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 for her work to eradicate infant mortality. CHCI implemented the Open Arms Program to combat infant mortality and increase the likelihood of women receiving early prenatal care in Cumberland County.

The importance of offering quality prenatal care to the underserved population is crucial to the health of the community, as many women would otherwise go without care. Cumberland County has staggering health disparities: The infant mortality rate is twice the state average. The teen pregnancy rate is the highest in the state. The preterm birth rate and the low birth weight rate are among the highest. Minority women present on average with twice the rate of late stage breast and gynecological cancers when com-

pared to caucasian women in the county.

Through the vision and responsiveness of CHCI and its CEO, Mr. Gil Walter, Dr. Torchia was empowered to direct and manage resources to maximize effectiveness in improving health disparities as they affect women and their families. In collaboration with SJHS and AmeriChoice, the Open Arms Program, an initiative addressing infant mortality was created in 2007. This program incentivizes women to seek early prenatal care, be compliant with scheduled appointments and testing, and to return for the first pediatric visit and the postpartum visit.

Governor Jon S. Corzine praised Community Health Care for its commitment to combating and reducing disparities associated with the lack of



NJ Health Commissioner Heather Howard, CHCI's Director of Women's Services Dr. Michele Torchia and Governor John S. Corzine

adequate and early prenatal care. CHCI is proud of Dr. Torchia and equally applauds her devotion to serving the women and children in Cumberland County.

Grand Opening of State-of-the-Art Medical Center in Perth Amboy

Jewish Renaissance Medical Center held its ribbon cutting ceremony on October 27, 2008

The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center (JRMC), a federally qualified health center in Perth Amboy, celebrated the Grand Opening of its \$14 million, 48,000 square foot, state-of-the-art medical center that will serve over 100,000 medically underserved children and families. Services offered will include the full spectrum of care: pediatric care, women's health, internal medicine, elder care, behavioral health, dental care, urgent care, pharmacy and health education.

Alan Goldsmith, President of the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, stated, "We are very excited about the opening of the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center's state of the art building. It was built to help eliminate the racial and economic disparities in people receiving medical services. The JRMC is proud to provide services and welcome every person who seeks our care."

Over two hundred people attended the ceremony and



toured the beautiful new building. In addition to staff, community residents and patients, elected officials were on hand to lend their support of this new venture and to share commentary about the contributions of community health centers in eliminating disparities and providing outreach to vulnerable populations, this time in the form of additional services to more people in the city of Perth Amboy. In attendance were U.S. Senator Menendez, Penny Pinsker on behalf of U.S. Senator Lautenberg; Congressman Albio Sires; Middlesex County Freeholders Crabel, Hutchins and Rios; Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz, and Assemblyman Joe Vas.