



President Obama Announces Recovery Act Awards to Build, Renovate Community Health Centers

ANNOUNCING

Region II Annual
Conference
New York
New Jersey
Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands
Hosted by NJPCA

Tropicana Casino
& Resort
Atlantic City
June 1, 2, 3, 2010

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information



On December 9, 2009, President Obama announced nearly \$600 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) awards to support major construction and renovation

projects at 85 community health centers nationwide and help networks of health centers adopt Electronic Health Records (EHR) and other Health Information Technology (HIT) systems. The awards are expected to not only create new job opportunities in construction and health care, but also help provide care for more than half a million additional patients in underserved communities. The President also announced a new demonstration initiative to support the delivery of advanced primary care to Medicare beneficiaries through community health centers.

"Together, these initiatives – funding for construction, technology and a medical home demonstration project – won't just save more money, and create more jobs, they'll give more people the peace of mind of knowing that health care will be there for them and their families when they need it," said President Obama.

"One of the first investments we made through the Recovery Act was in supporting our nation's community health centers – and today we build on that progress by funding new construction and improvement projects at more than 80 facilities nationwide," said Vice President Biden.

The new Recovery Act funds are the latest in a series of grants awarded to communi-

ty health centers, which deliver preventive and primary care services at more than 7,500 service delivery sites around the country to patients regardless of their ability to pay. Health centers serve more than 17 million patients, about 40 percent of whom have no health insurance.

President Obama directed the Department of Health and Human Services to implement a demonstration initiative designed to evaluate the impact of the advanced primary care practice model on access, quality and cost of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries served by community health centers. This model, known as the "medical home," promotes accessible, continuous, and coordinated family-centered care. Developed and administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the demonstration will last three years. HRSA has received a total of \$2 billion through the Recovery Act to expand health care services to low-income and uninsured individuals through its health center program. To date, nearly \$1.9 billion of these funds have been awarded to community-based organizations across the country.

The four NJ health centers receiving funds are:

Zufall Health Center, Inc., Dover - \$3,920,442

Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc., Lakewood - \$4,753,399

Newark City Health and Human Service, Newark - \$4,996,563

Newark Community Health Center, Inc., Newark - \$6,453,000

NJPCA

Katherine Grant-Davis,
President and CEO

This newsletter is published by the New Jersey Primary Care Association. For additional information please contact our offices at:

3836 Quakerbridge Road
Suite 201
Hamilton, NJ 08619
(609)689-9930

www.nj pca.org

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Judy Rynkewicz

NJPCA Medical and Dental Directors Committee

The major providers of comprehensive community-based primary health care in New Jersey are the 20 federally funded/qualified community health centers (FQHCs) and their 97 satellite sites. The FQHCs target the health care needs of the medically underserved within their respective service areas. All FQHCs are staffed with well-qualified Board-certified or Board-eligible physicians representing a broad array of medical specialties and are subject to stringent Federal regulations in all operational areas.

Medical Directors supervise professional medical and nursing staff; direct clinical and quality improvement programs; and develop clinical policies and procedures for the FQHCs. They are accountable for the credentialing and privileging of licensed staff and provide oversight of risk management programs.



The Dental Directors and their staff work with medical teams to integrate dental services for the optimal health of their patients.

The Medical and Dental Directors meet quarterly to network, share experiences, best practices and challenges, and to identify potential resources.

Pictured above are the NJPCA Medical and Dental Directors: Front row: Drs. Rina Ramirez, Nancy Tham, Sharon Buttress, Christina Medrano, Deborah Brown. Back row: Drs. Jorge Vereas, Puneet Babbar, Tonya Cook, Steven Levin, Devin Goodman, Patrick Beaty, Anju Mattoo, Sam Wakim, Carmen Mallamaci, Margaret Murray-Sobers

Risk Management Education Program

On October 22, 2009, NJPCA sponsored a Risk Management program at the Robert Wood Johnson Conference Center. Those representatives from our Community Health Centers enjoyed a lively and informative presentation by Melinda Malecki, JD MS, a partner in Lebow, Malecki and Tasch. Melinda has a strong background in Risk Management and serves as a board member of her local community health center. The focus of her presentation was incorporating risk management principles into



Melinda Malecki

daily operation to decrease risk exposure and increase patient safety, improving documentation and establishing an enterprise risk management program. Her presentation was much appreciated by the audience.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE HIRES ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



Emily E. Rosenberg has joined the staff of Community Health Care, Inc. as the Associate Director of Public Relations and Development.

Emily previously held the position of Marketing Manager for Media Communications at United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, one of the area's largest nonprofits. While at United Way, Emily's public relations and social media work focused on promoting giving, advocacy and volunteerism as a means to improve education for children, income for families and health for seniors.

Emily received her degree from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She is originally from Cape May Court House and now resides in South Dennis, NJ where she is currently training for her 9th marathon.

SPOTLIGHT ON PATERSON'S CEO

Paterson Community Health Center follows lead of iron-willed CEO

(Reprinted from Passaic County Pulse by Andrew B. Bosma)

For 30 years now, the Paterson Community Health Center (PCHC) has made its mission to ensure that the city's [economically] vulnerable population – it's uninsured and underinsured – are afforded access to essential quality health care.

As evidenced by its beautiful ten million dollar three-story facility located at 32 Clinton Street, the center has come a long way from its humble origins when it first opened its doors to the public in 1979. Back then, it was but a single small facility housed in a rented, renovated 75-year-old warehouse, serving a patient population of 6,500.

Today, with two permanent facilities (the other located at 227 Broadway) and a traveling two-exam-room dental mobile (used to visit pre-schools, public schools and charity agencies) the PCHC has never been in a stronger position to fulfill its mission statement and see that no one in the community who requests it is denied health care service, regardless of their present inability to pay for it.

Perhaps no single factor is better able to account for the center's success than the indomitable will of its long serving Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Mary McKay Garner, who is poised to enter her 20 year of service as its guiding force. To say that Dr. Garner, who is a licensed clinical psychologist with past private-practice and college/university teaching experience, is personally invested in the success of the PCHC is only not an exaggeration, it's something of an understatement.

What makes the story of the center's success under Dr. Garner's leadership all the more remarkable, though, is that only a year before accepting the CEO position, the PCHC had come within the proverbial hair's breath of being shut down. However, community leaders, including Dr. Garner, councilpersons and others banded together and refused to let the health center close. They petitioned local, state and federal leaders not to shut it down.

The Broadway facility and the dental mobile are owned outright and the new ten-million-dollar Clinton Street facili-

ty is already more than half paid for. And there are plans already in place for inevitable future expansions that a continuously growing population will inexorably demand of it given its role in the community.

The PCHC's special status as a [grant-supported] Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) derives from its ability to reach those people who are most in need [of health services]. Its outreach program is of crucial importance which employs twenty field workers, working in teams that visit homes, schools, charity agencies and churches in an effort to both register people as health center members and, if those members want, schedule an appointment to come in for any of the health services the center provides: Obstetrics, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Adolescent, Adult, Geriatrics, Podiatry and Dental.

"We have a lot of immigrants here who won't step up when they don't have the proper papers," says Dr. Garner. "We have to find ways to work with them. We have to register them in order to get

reimbursed for the care that we give them but we also have to assure them that we're not going to immigration services and reporting that they don't have the papers."

But success comes at a price. And that price is hard work. From the CEO and her fellow administrators to the medial and pharmaceutical staffs to the outreach teams and teams of receptionists and administrative assistants the center employs, the fact that no weak links are tolerated is the key to PCHC's strength and continuing success. And while there may very well be others at the center who work just as hard as she, none works harder than Dr. Mary McKay Garner.

"I work eighty hours a week. And forty hours a week are spent getting the health center's money," Dr. Garner states plainly. "the health center would lose close to a million dollars a year if I didn't pinpoint and target every payment owed to us by the health insurance companies."

From nineteen years of working in the healthcare industry it is her experience that there are too many abusive health insurance companies whose goal is not to pay for services rendered. And on more than one occasion has she been left with no recourse but to go and use legal means to receive reimbursement from some of the insurance companies for patient services rendered, and she has not shied away.

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A long-time resident of Paterson for the past 43 years, Dr. Garner was a member/patient of the center long before she was ever offered the opportunity to take its reigns in February of 1991. The PCHC has been her health center since it opened.

SUCCESSFUL 2009 UDS TRAINING

On December 8, 2009, NJPCA hosted the well attended Preparation of the UDS (Uniform Data Systems) training session at the RWJ Conference Center in Mercerville, NJ. The all day event was attended by over 70 representatives from the NJ FQHCs. The training session was informative for both new and existing staff because it focused on standard UDS reporting requirements, as well as a brief introduction to the upcoming changes in reporting requirements that have been proposed by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) for 2009 UDS data submissions.

Pictured l. to r. at right: Rivka Yablonsky and Yaakov Schwartz from Lakewood Resource & Referral Center (CHEMED), NJPCA's newest FQHC, with trainer, Susan Friedrich from John Snow Incorporated.



Tamiflu Delivery



In August of 2009, NJPCA was contacted about a possible free donation of Tamiflu for the Community Health Centers in New Jersey. The donation was estimated to be worth one million dollars. The donor elected to remain anonymous and decided in late December to select NJPCA as the benefactor of the Tamiflu. The Tamiflu arrived in 5 large pallets on January 12th at 7 am at NJPCA's office. Centers were able to take their allotment that same day after the board meeting. The Tamiflu expires March 2011 and will be a great asset for Centers and their patients who will receive Tamiflu for free and will not have to worry about the financial barriers of procuring the medication. Much thanks to Michael Schaff and Alyson Leone of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer in Woodbridge for advocating and assisting NJPCA in obtaining the donation.

At left, Amelia Muccio, Director of Disaster Planning, sits atop the mountain of Tamiflu delivered to NJPCA.

Spotlight on Damaris Loza and North Hudson Community Action Corporation

Damaris Loza, Presumptive Eligibility Coordinator at North Hudson Community Action Corporation in West New York, was notified at her PE Meeting on July 10, 2009 that she and her team were the top producers for online PE enrollment for pregnant women. Ms. Loza led her team of workers through some difficult issues and problems and as a result, enrolled more women in PE and Medicaid than any other health center in the state.

Because of Ms. Loza's outstanding leadership, the state Medicaid agency chose North Hudson as the Demonstration Site for online PE enrollment for pregnant women.

Congratulations Damaris! Keep up the good work!



North Hudson Community Action Corporation Health Center
From l. to r. - Christopher Irizarry, President/CEO; Theresa Fullmer, CFO; Yvonne Ruiz, PE – Team leader; Damaris Loza – Billing Manager/PE Coordinator; Michael Shababb, COO.

Statewide H1N1 Vaccination Efforts

Last September the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) invited hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to participate in statewide H1N1 vaccination efforts. New Jersey FQHCs partnered with local agencies and community health care partners to protect those at greatest risk of H1N1 in the communities they serve.



Loida Lebron and daughter, Isabella Lebron, and Dr. Uma Kanikicharla

Many health centers held special H1N1 clinics to meet the demand for services. **Ocean Health Initiative (OHI)** was one of many New Jersey Community Health Centers that participated in this important endeavor. OHI held special H1N1 weekend clinics in and around their Lakewood and Toms River offices. Call center, registration, providers and clinical support staff worked side by side in the provision of these services.

During the OHI's outreach events they gave 7,910 vaccines. The health center's Mobile Medical Unit gave over 2,000 vaccines. The mobile van distributed vaccines to 5 schools in their service community.



"This is what 'true community service' is all about. The patients were very thankful that we were able to meet their needs," said Dr. Carmen Mallamaci, Chief Medical Officer.

Metropolitan Family Health Network Holds Ribbon Cutting for New Homeless Site

Metropolitan Family Health Network in Jersey City, NJ held a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new homeless site on November 16, 2009. The site is located on the first floor in the building of the United Way of Hudson County on Bergen Avenue in Jersey City. "We are very pleased that Dan Altilio, the CEO of the United Way of Hudson County, agreed to collaborate with us in establishing this site," said Joan Dublin, CEO at Metropolitan Family Health Network. "In serving underserved populations, it is important that we all work together." The



Joining in the ribbon cutting ceremony are from l. to r.: State Senator Sandra Cunningham, Dr. Patrick Beaty (Medical Director), Front, Scott Carey (Deputy Director), Joan Dublin (Chief Executive Officer), Member of the Board of the United Way, Maureen Spittlehouse (State Representative), Myrtle Maundy (MFHN Board Member), Johnny Torres (Save Latin America, Rear, Grace Nayatome (Special Populations Manager)

program began seeing patients in July 2009 and provides medical and mental health services to Hudson County's homeless population. In attendance were State Senator Sandra Cunningham, state representative Maureen Spittlehouse, Dan Altilio, CEO of the United Way of Hudson County, Board Member Myrtle Manundy, and Eric K. Mason of Bank of America Merrill Lynch. NJPCA was represented by Leslie Morris, in addition to representatives from the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and agencies in Hudson County.

Smile Smart: Defying the Odds for Children's Dental Disease

Community Health Care, Inc. is making it possible for children throughout Cumberland County to receive quality dental care through their *Smile Smart* program. Since 2005, *Smile Smart* has been providing uninsured children at Cumberland County Schools with comprehensive dental health services such as dental exams, cleanings, preventive fluoride treatments and sealants – services many underprivileged children don't receive until it's too late.

Children who don't receive proper dental care are likely to experience dental disease as adults. A Surgeon General Report on Oral Health in America found that poor children have twice as many cavities as children with more resources and their disease is more likely to go untreated. Because few dentists in south Jersey accept uninsured children or those with Medicaid, nurses at public schools have found themselves overwhelmed with an abundance of children in need of dental care.

"If a child doesn't see a dentist until they've left school and found a job on their own it's too late," said Gil Walter, President and CEO of Community Health Care, Inc. "By working with the school system we are making it easier for parents to access quality dental care for their children."

Through *Smile Smart*, parents can make appointments for their children during regular school hours. Transportation is provided through Community Health Care, Inc. and the co-pay is waived to make the *Smile Smart* program more accessible. Parents need only talk to the school nurse, fill out a consent form, and their children will be taken care of.

Since its inception, the *Smile Smart* program has seen approximately 5,000 children. According to Dr. Kimberly Benberry, Dental Director for Community Health Care, Inc. and Director of the *Smile Smart* program, the goal of the program is to "be the premiere place for children's dental care in Cumberland County. Our objective is to provide a dental home for the children and we will continue to see each child until their last cavity is filled."



NJPCA Director of Community Relations Encourages College Students To Pursue Public Health Careers at FQHCs

Leslie A. Morris, Director of Community Relations at NJPCA, was a guest lecturer at William Paterson University in Wayne, NJ on September 28, 2009. Speaking on the role of FQHCs in serving underserved populations to seniors majoring in public health and health sciences, Leslie spoke of the 20 FQHCs in New Jersey and the comprehensive services provided to the state's most vulnerable population. Leslie encouraged the students to pursue internships at the network of health centers as well as careers as providers and program management upon graduation. As a result of this outreach, two students will be interning at Paterson Community Health Center and Neighborhood Health Center Plainfield.

NJPCA Sponsors Training on Gangs in New Jersey

NJPCA, in collaboration with the Violence Institute New Jersey at UMDNJ, sponsored a workshop on Gangs in New Jersey on October 30, 2009 at the Robert Wood Johnson Conference Center. The training was conducted by gang expert Jack Farrell of the Institute, and featured information on gang definition, common myths about gangs and gang members, why youth join gangs, and common gangs in New Jersey. For more information about gangs, or to schedule training at your organization, contact Jack Farrell at farreljw@umdnj.edu.

Paterson

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"I say it with pride and with humbleness that there's no health center – FQHC – that goes after its money like Mary Garner's health center. No one. And what I have earned is a reputation of going after the health center's money and knowing enough about what is what to know when they should pay us and when they shouldn't. It is grueling on the health center to get its money. But get it we must and get it we do."



NJPCA Welcomes New Staff Members



Amia Campbell, MPA joined the NJPCA team on October 13, 2009 as the new Director of the SEARCH (Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health) Program. In this capacity, she will establish and maintain contact with any

and all organizations necessary to the implementation of the program including the FQHCs and Area Health Education Centers. She will also recruit, facilitate, monitor and plan student participation in SEARCH program activities.

Amia is highly motivated and has experience in working with community organizations in underserved areas. She is very excited about the SEARCH Program and looks forward to working with the program partners in providing a rewarding and enriching experience for eligible students. Amia received her degree undergraduate and graduate degrees from Rutgers University.

Amia currently resides in Trenton, NJ. She enjoys exercising and loves to read and travel.



Ying (Julia) Su, MBA, CPA joined the NJPCA team on October 12, 2009 as the new senior accountant. She will be working in the accounting department and coordinate all the daily activities related to accounting.

Julia has been working in the finance and accounting fields for KPMG, County Government and other international corporations during the past ten years. She received her degree from the University of Wisconsin.

She lives in Mercer County with her husband and two children. Julia enjoys movies, reading and skiing.

CONGRATULATIONS

Horizon Health Center, Jersey City
Ambulatory Health Care Program
for receiving Joint Commission Re-Accreditation

Additional information is available at the Quality Check on the Joint Commission website: www.jointcommission.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JANUARY

January 21, 2010
Social Work Meeting
NJPCA Conference Room
12 noon - 3 pm

January 25, 2010
QA Meeting
NJPCA Conference Room
10 am - 12 noon

January 29, 2010
CFO Meeting
NJPCA Conference Room
11 am - 3 pm

FEBRUARY

February 3, 2010
Pan Flu (Frontline Staff) Meeting
NJPCA Conference Room
12 noon - 3 pm

February 10, 2010
COOP Meeting/EP Summit
RWJ Conference Center
9 am - 3 pm

February 18, 2010
SEARCH Advisory Council Meeting
NJPCA Conference Room
4pm - 6pm

February 23, 2010
Community Advisory Board Meeting
NJPCA Conference Room
12 noon - 3 pm

February 23-28, 2010
NACHC Policy & Issues Forum
Washington, DC

MARCH

March 9, 2010
NJPCA Executive Committee Meeting
10 am - 1 pm

March 16, 2010
NJPCA Board Meeting
NJPCA Boardroom
10 am - 1 pm

March 23, 2010
State Resource Meeting
RWJ Conference Center
Invitation to follow

