

An e-magazine Honoring FQHC Excellence in New Jersey

Community Health



December 2020

Letter from the President and CEO



Greetings Friends,

The story of 2020 will forever be in the history books- how every country in the world, including the United States was gripped by this ruthless pandemic, causing unmitigated devastation of lives and livelihoods. In our communities, relentless COVID cases, rising hospitalizations, deaths, closed businesses, widespread unemployment, and food insecurities became more of a norm than an aberration.

Against this bleak backdrop, we have also seen our amazing everyday heroes rise to the challenge, run to the frontline to face the fire - so that they can save those whose only line of defense lies in them. These are the heroes who have taken care of our sick, kept us fed and clothed, delivered our medicines and mail, maintained our neighborhoods, and preserved our humanity.

Our Centers represent those unsung heroes, our frontline A-Team, making sure that New Jersey's safety net remains accessible during this very difficult time.

So, we say, Thank You! We are humbled by your dedication and empathy, and we are in awe of your resilience! And I am pleased to dedicate this single E-magazine issue of 2020 to You!

Very truly yours,

Selina Haq, Ph.D.



NJPCA Community Health

Selina Haq, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Toni Granato, M.A.
*Senior Coordinator of
Communications,
Policy, and Training*

Donnell Smiley, MPH
*Emergency
Management
Coordinator*

Brittnay Herrera
Program Coordinator

WE WORK FOR YOU!

The New Jersey Primary Care Association ("NJPCA") represents 23 Community Health Centers and 136 satellite community-based ambulatory healthcare facilities throughout the state of New Jersey. Community Health Centers are also known as FQHCs or federally qualified health centers. FQHCs are authorized under Section 330(A) of the Public Health Services Act to provide healthcare to the underserved and the uninsured. New Jersey Community Health Centers provide healthcare services to over half a million New Jerseyans annually.

The NJPCA works to provide for the expansion and provision of quality, cost-effective, and efficient primary healthcare through Community Health Centers.

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Pictured: CompleteCare Health Network (CCHN) President & CEO J. Curtis Edwards at the Cumberland County COVID-19 testing site on its opening day. Photo Credit: CCHN.

Health Centers Shine

The Front-Line Response to COVID-19

FQHCs See COVID-19 Relief in Sight as Vaccinations Roll Out in New Jersey

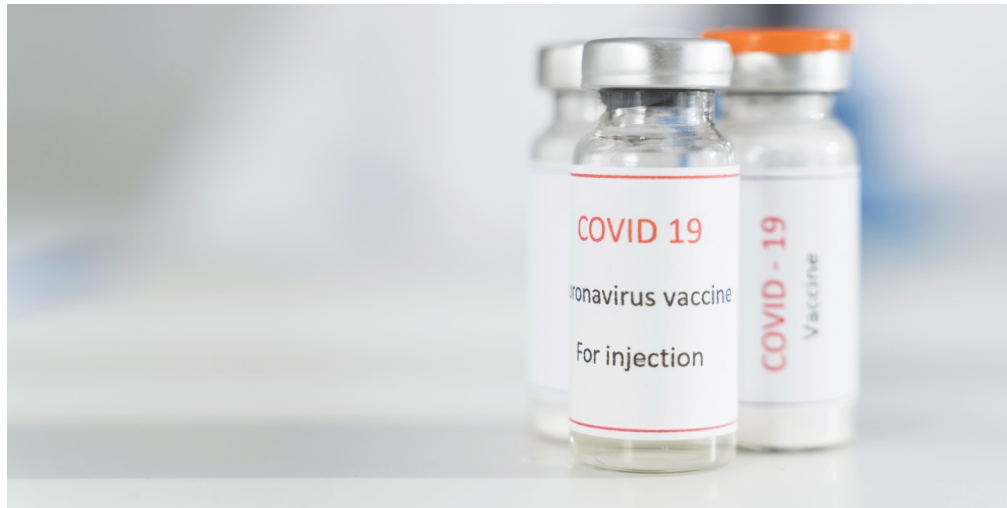


Photo Credit: [Freepik](#).

As daily hospitalizations due to COVID complications continue to rise and as heart-wrenching as the massive loss of lives have been in the United States, there is a glimmer of hope! We may see some light at the end of this long, arduous tunnel!

The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) emergency use authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine on December 11, 2020, has paved the way for the mass vaccination process to begin. Another positive development is that the second vaccine, the one developed by Moderna, has just been authorized for use. As vaccine doses are being distributed throughout the country, the first phase of vaccination began in New Jersey on December 15, 2020.

What is also known as phase 1a in the [New Jersey Department of Health's Mass Vaccination Plan](#), efforts are currently underway to vaccinate healthcare workers, who are at the highest risk of exposure from the disease. Phase 1b will include essential workers including nursing home residents, seniors, and people with underlying health conditions.

Nationally, according to a [report](#) by the Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative, almost half of Health Center patients could qualify for phase 1b priority vaccination due to their age or medical conditions.

Adults with underlying medical conditions such as moderate to severe asthma, diabetes, pregnancy, smoking, COPD, and heart conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. Based on [current CDC guidance](#), adults who are immunocompromised including those with HIV, cancer, liver disease, and hypertension are also at increased risk.

With 3,394 healthcare workers spread throughout the counties at 136 delivery sites, New Jersey FQHCs anticipate receiving their shipments of the vaccine soon. As critical as it is to immunize their frontline healthcare workers, they are also getting ready to play a critical role in vaccinating the rest of the State, including the nearly 600,000 who call the FQHCs their healthcare homes.

Health Centers Shine

Zufall Health and North Hudson Health Center Featured in NACHC Publication



Pictured above are NHCAC personnel providing COVID-19 testing at the Union City testing site. Photo Credit: NHCAC.

In September 2020, North Hudson Community Action Corporation (NHCAC) and Zufall Health Center were included in the National Association of Community Health Centers' [Promising Health Center Practices during COVID-19](#) publication.

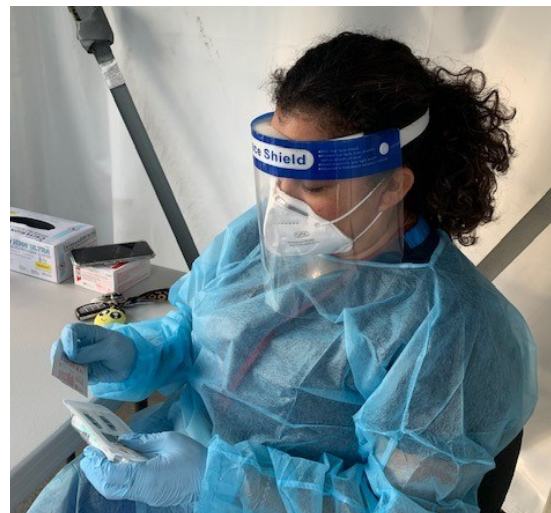
As part of a collection of field examples from across the country, the Health Centers' innovative responses to the pandemic were featured. Early on in the pandemic, NHCAC quickly set-up COVID-19 triage, scheduling, and testing as well as reassigned dental staff to help work at the NHCAC Call Center given the surge in calls. NHCAC also collaborated with local mayors to open drive-thru COVID-19 testing sites in hot spots and provide COVID-19 testing for vulnerable populations at long-term care facilities.

Zufall Health Center's swift transition to telehealth services was also highlighted. Prior to the pandemic, the Health Center received a grant that helped lay the foundation for telehealth infrastructure. Along with this funding, the Health Center created guidance on telehealth regulations, billing, as well as best practice workflows and templates.

MFHC Ramps Up COVID-19 Testing and Flu Vaccinations

The Monmouth Family Health Center (MFHC) declared the week of November 2, 2020, as COVID-19 Testing Week. During the week, MFHC set a goal to test as many residents of Long Branch and the surrounding communities as possible. Out of those tested for COVID-19, 7.5% were positive. MFHC practitioners contacted these patients as soon as the results arrived and provided patient-specific guidance.

During the same week, the Health Center offered widespread influenza vaccinations and testing to their staff. To abide by social distancing requirements and occupancy limitations, MFHC instituted an outdoor flu clinic. As a result, the Center increased the number of vaccinations administered.



Pictured is MFHC Office Manager Nidia Dantas. Photo Credit: MFHC.

Health Centers Shine

NJ Centers Recognized with Quality Awards



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced \$1,674,120 in Quality Improvement Awards to 21 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in New Jersey. Health Centers will use these funds to build upon their 2019 achievements to address health priorities. This funding allows Health Centers to expand access to quality services; reduce health disparities; increase the use of health information technology; and deliver patient-centered care.

Total Funding to New Jersey Health Centers, 21 awards totaling \$1,674,120:

- **Clinical Quality Improvers:** 10 Health Centers received awards totaling \$300,141
- **Health Center Quality Leaders:** 6 Health Centers received awards totaling \$246,134
- **National Quality Leaders:** 1 Health Center received an award totaling \$37,170
- **Access Enhancers:** 4 Health Centers received awards totaling \$34,500
- **Health Disparities Reducers:** 4 Health Centers received awards totaling \$129,375
- **Advancing Health Information Technology (HIT) for Quality:** 17 Health Centers received awards totaling \$136,800
- **Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition:** 18 Health Centers received awards totaling \$790,000

This year, **AtlantiCare Health Services** was named a National Quality Leader. National Quality Leaders were among the top 1-2 percent of all HRSA-supported Health Centers in one or more of the clinical quality measures that promote behavioral health, diabetes health, and heart health in 2019.

Six New Jersey Health Centers received Quality Leader awards. Health Center Quality Leaders were among the top 30 percent of all Health Centers that achieved the best overall clinical outcomes, demonstrating high-quality across their clinical operations.

New Jersey Quality Leaders include:

- AtlantiCare Health Services
- Eric B. Chandler Health Center
- Horizon Health Center/Alliance Community Healthcare
- Rutgers Community Health Center
- Jewish Renaissance Foundation
- Zufall Health Center

Nearly \$117 million in Quality Improvement grants was awarded to 1,318 Community Health Centers across all U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia.

For a list of FY 2020 Quality Improvement Award recipients, click [here](#).



MFHN Provides over 400 Bags of Thanksgiving Food to the Community

Metropolitan Family Health Network (MFHN) held a Thanksgiving Food Drive for community members in need on November 23rd. Despite rainy, cold, and windy weather, hundreds of individuals gathered in a socially-distanced line around the block to receive a bag of food an hour-and-a-half ahead of the planned 9:30 a.m. start time.

“COVID-19 has greatly affected the people of our community both physically and economically,” said NJPCA Board Chair and MFHN President and CEO, Joan Dublin, RN, MPA, ACHE. “As the pandemic spikes again, and unemployment continues, we want to make sure that we care for those who are struggling.”

Ms. Dublin said because of the early arrivals, MFHN began distributing the food earlier than planned. In all, more than 400 bags of food for Thanksgiving dinners were distributed.



Community residents in line to receive food for Thanksgiving. Photo Credit: MFHN.

MFHN was able to assemble 400 food bags by supplementing its own contributions with donations from Aetna Better Health of New Jersey, Amerigroup, Horizon NJ Health, Jersey City Medical Center, LabCorp, Medly Pharmacy, WellCare, and others. The bags included shelf-stable food such as stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, cornbread mix, desserts, and more.

Henry J. Austin Launches New Brand and Website

On December 1st, Henry J. Austin Health Center (HJAHC) introduced a new brand, which reflects their vision and mission of providing high-quality care and services to patients regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or income level. Along with the new brand and logo, the Health Center also launched a [newly designed website](#).

“Our new brand encompasses how we have changed and grown over the past few years. We want our community to see Henry J. Austin as a beacon in the city of hope, health, and well-being for all. The newly renovated buildings are designed for you to feel welcomed and where you come to become well and be treated with respect. Henry J. Austin Health Center is the center for wellness,” said **HJAHC CEO Dr. Kemi Alli**.

The Health Center was originally established in 1969 as Trenton’s Neighborhood Health Center, providing primary and sick care. Later, the Health Center was named after Dr. Henry J. Austin who came to practice medicine in



Trenton because Jim Crow laws prohibited him from practicing in his hometown of Princeton. HJAHC was incorporated in 1986 as a non-profit Health Center. Since then, HJAHC has become a nationally ranked Health Center recognized for its quality of comprehensive collaborative care. HJAHC offers an array of health and wellness services to over 18,000 patients a year.

HJAHC’s new logo represents a bridge to health and wellness, welcoming all people to receive high-quality care, that will not only improve the lives of their patients but the life of the greater Trenton community.

CompleteCare Opens New School-Based Site at Vineland High School



Pictured is CompleteCare Health Network (CCHN) President and CEO J. Curtis Edwards (center) with staff members from CompleteCare and the Vineland High School. Photo Credit: CCHN.

On November 10th, CompleteCare Health Network held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new school-based health center at Vineland High School. The new site, called the Teen Center, officially opened on November 16th. Services at the Teen Center include primary medical care, wellness exams, sports physicals, and sick visits. The new site was made possible through a collaboration with the Vineland Board of Education. With the addition of the Teen Center, CompleteCare now operates 20 sites across South Jersey.

“School-based health centers are at the heart of what CompleteCare does for the community,” said **CompleteCare Health Network President and CEO J. Curtis Edwards**. “They give us the opportunity to teach kids the importance of health and wellness starting at a young age and hopefully give them a foundation to start making decisions for a healthy future.”

NCHC Virtual Gala Benefits COVID-19 Relief Fund

Newark Community Health Centers (NCHC) held its first virtual gala on October 22nd to mark the Health Center’s 34th anniversary. During the event, President and CEO Dr. Pamela Clarke welcomed guests and described how the gala fundraiser will allow NCHC to continue to provide primary care services as well as COVID-19 screening and testing. After Dr. Clarke’s remarks, some of the NCHC staff danced to “We Are Family.”

The fun-filled evening event featured musical stylings from Don Braden, Vanessa Rubin, and Nat Adderley Jr. Cedric the Entertainer and Sinbad also made special appearances. The event was hosted by WBGO Morning Jazz Host Gary Walker and News 12 Morning News Anchor Carissa Lawson. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Executive Officer, Region II, Dennis E. González, and U.S.



Congressman Donald Payne Jr. also provided remarks at the celebration.

The proceeds from the gala benefited NCHC’s COVID-19 Relief Fund. The Fund allows NCHC to purchase patient telemonitoring equipment such as glucometers for diabetics; blood pressure cuffs; and measuring tape and scales for pregnant patients. These tools help increase patient engagement and allow providers to offer safe virtual care.

OHI Receives Special Visit from U.S. Rep. Kim



Pictured are OHI President and CEO Dr. Theresa Berger and U.S. Congressman Andy Kim. Photo Credit: OHI.

On October 15th, U.S. Congressman Andy Kim received his flu shot at the Ocean Health Initiatives (OHI) Brick Health Center and met with President and CEO Dr. Theresa Berger. During the special visit, Rep. Kim toured the facility and learned more about OHI's front-line response to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the visit, Rep. Kim commended OHI for their continued service to Ocean and Monmouth County residents.

"This week I had the chance to visit Ocean Health Initiatives and thank them for the incredible work they do. From providing affordable health care to those at all income levels to testing tens of thousands for COVID-19, OHI has been a lifeline for our community." said U.S. Rep. Andy Kim on Twitter

JRMC Joins Partners to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness



Pictured from left to right is Jewish Renaissance Foundation Director of Community and Family Services Sherrie Goldberg; Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz; Perth Amboy Business Improvement District Executive Director Noelia Colon; JRMC CEO John T. O'Leary; and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Cynthia Vuittonet. Photo Credit: JRMC.

The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center (JRMC) joined Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month during a flag-raising ceremony on October 21st. At the ceremony, JRMC CEO John T. O'Leary discussed the Health Center's Women's Health Initiative and their ongoing goal to purchase a 3-D mammogram machine. JRMC Chief Medical Officer Dr. Cynthia Vuittonet provided remarks and emphasized the importance of breast cancer screening and early detection.

Community and Family Services Sherrie Goldberg was also in attendance. Ms. Goldberg shared her personal story as a survivor of breast cancer.

At the end of the ceremony, JRMC representatives joined Mayor Diaz, the Perth Amboy Business Improvement District, and other community partners to raise a pink breast cancer flag. A few days later, JRMC employees participated in "Pink Friday" and wore pink to honor breast cancer survivors as well as those who have been lost to the disease.

Jewish Renaissance Foundation's Director of

NJPCA and Rutgers University Offer Nation's First Undergraduate FQHC-Focused Course



Pictured: Rutgers University students with NJPCA President and CEO Dr. Selina Haq and Program Coordinator Brittnay Herrera.

NJPCA, in collaboration with Rutgers University Career Services and Division of Life Sciences, developed an undergraduate course titled “The Clinical Practicum in Health Professions: Community Health.” The course took place during the Spring 2020 semester and provided students with an in-depth understanding of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) during lectures, assignments, and an FQHC internship experience.

The nine students who participated in the course sought majors in a variety of academic disciplines, including, cell biology, neuroscience, cognitive science, economics, and biological science.

As part of the learning experience, NJPCA arranged guest lecturers who were either representatives from Community Health Centers or federal and state partners. Examples of lecture topics included an Introduction to Federally Qualified Health Centers ‘FQHC 101’; Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities; The Community Healthcare Profession; and Advocating for Community Health Centers. All of the topics were specifically chosen to illustrate the importance of CHCs as well as explain the unique role Centers play in their communities. NJPCA also

taught a class that reviewed the various programs that a Primary Care Association offers FQHCs. During the class, NJPCA conducted a mock-advocacy session for students to practice advocating for FQHC funding to a legislator.

Students in the program were placed at an FQHC to shadow staff and complete a project. The following Health Centers provided students with internship opportunities:

- Eric B. Chandler Health Center;
- Henry J. Austin Health Center;
- Metropolitan Family Health Network;
- Newark Community Health Centers; and
- North Hudson Community Action Corporation.

The students were scheduled to complete a minimum of 135 hours at the Centers, however, due to COVID-19, the in-person internships were discontinued in March.

Despite the unexpected change, the students assisted Centers by completing various projects remotely. For example, the student interns created pamphlets in both English and Spanish that advertised community-based

programs available to patients. Although Rutgers University canceled in-person classes due to the pandemic, virtual learning continued until the course ended on May 12, 2020.

Biological Sciences Director of Undergraduate Advising and Division of Life Sciences Assistant Teaching Professor, Dr. Anne Carr-Schmid was the lecturer for the course. Dr. Carr-Schmid played an influential role in the course's design.

After students completed the course, they

expressed that they received a heightened appreciation of the mission of FQHCs. Many students also conveyed an interest in seeking a career at an FQHC upon graduation. One student was even accepted into an AmeriCorps program at Zufall Health Center.

Due to the pandemic, both the course and the internship program will resume when it is safe to host students at Health Centers in-person.



Pictured from left to right from the top are the guest lecturers: Newark Community Health Centers CEO Dr. Pamela Clarke; Henry J. Austin Health Center (HJAH) CEO Dr. Kemi Alli; Zufall Health Center Foundation Director Shade Cronan; AtlantiCare Health Services Executive Director Sandy Festa; Garfunkel Wild, P.C. Attorneys at Law Partner Stacey Gulick; HJAH Director of Behavioral Health Lee Ruszczyk; Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Region II Senior Medical Officer/Physician Dr. Tanya Pagán Raggio-Ashley; Former New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Managing Director Denise Anderson; North Hudson Community Action Corporation Chief Operating Officer Vito Veneruso; and Health Care Association of New Jersey Director of Emergency Management David Weidner.

Inside NJPCA

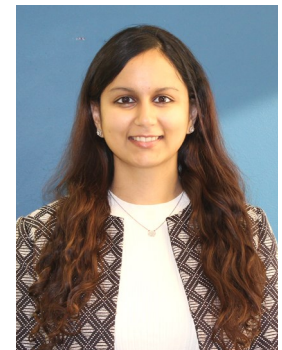
NJPCA Welcomes New Team Members



Megan D'Ariano has joined the NJPCA Team as a Program Manager for the Workforce Initiative. Prior to joining NJPCA, Megan worked as a Ticket to Work Specialist at America Works of New Jersey. She earned her Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Rutgers University.

With an extensive background in workforce development programs, Megan will work with the Health Center teams to facilitate the Health Professions Education and Training (HP-ET) initiative.

Snigdha Jindal recently became the NJPCA Clinical Program Coordinator. Snigdha earned her Master's degree in Public Health, Health Policy, and Management from the CUNY School of Public Health and a Bachelor's degree in Dental Surgery from Subharti Dental College in India. As an Oral Health Specialist at the Michigan Primary Care Association, Snigdha has worked on medical and dental integration projects. Her prior work experience also includes the role of Quality Improvement Lead at the Ezras Choilim Health Center in New York.



Snigdha will serve as a resource for the Health Centers and facilitate clinical quality initiatives at NJPCA.

FQHCs Receive Tools to Protect Themselves Against Cyber Attacks

NJPCA hosted a ransomware training in collaboration with Adapt Health Information Technology on November 13th. During the training, the firm's Founder and Principal Consultant Alicia Peters-Torrey reviewed various topics such as ransomware in the larger context of HIPAA; privacy and security risks from ransomware; phishing, and malware; and how to identify signs of a ransomware attack.

Participants also received tools to mitigate HIPAA privacy and security risks. At the end of the presentation, Ms. Peters-Torrey discussed case studies that illustrate the impact of a ransomware attack on healthcare facilities.

Recent data at the national level shows an alarming uptick in hacking targets within the healthcare industry. Healthcare organizations are faced with an unprecedented challenge of deploying new technologies at lightning speed to support new telehealth lines of patient



Photo Credit: Canva

care. Hacking activity has more than doubled in recent months, with some organizations forced to pay millions of dollars in “ransom” to retrieve their protected health information from bad actors.

These events have triggered a nation-wide increase in attention to security measures, and a sharp focus on steps organizations can take to better protect their information. This session introduced those steps – including those that have a monetary price tag, as well as those that can be implemented with only the cost of effort.

Career Fairs Strengthen Centers' Recruitment Efforts

During the Fall 2020 semester, NJPCA participated in six career fairs on behalf of FQHCs through the Handshake, Jobs Connected, and Simplicity virtual career fair platforms. These career fairs connected businesses, government, and non-profit employers to students/alumni for networking, resume review, recruiting, and industry education. All events provided a unique opportunity for job-seeking students and alumni to learn about careers at Health Centers within their community.

To date, 69 Health Center job opportunities have been shared with potential candidates during the one-to-one and group sessions. More than 20 students have applied for these positions.

All students received resources as a follow-up to learn more about NJPCA and FQHC career opportunities to stay connected.

NJPCA participated in the following College and University Career Fairs in Fall 2020:

- Princeton University - Fall 2020 HireTigers Virtual Career Fair
- The College of New Jersey - 2020 Virtual Fall Opportunities Fair
- Rutgers University - New Brunswick Virtual Career Fair 2020
- Rutgers University - Newark Virtual Career Fair 2020
- Monmouth University - Virtual Internship and Fall Career Day 2020
- Rowan University - Federal Government and Non-Profit Job Fair 2020

New HRSA Program Focused on Workforce Initiatives



Photo Credit: Shutterstock.

As part of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Health Professions Education and Training (HP-ET) initiative, NJPCA has expanded workforce training and technical assistance (T/TA) activities for New Jersey Health Centers. The goal of this federal initiative is to enhance Health Centers' capabilities to recruit, develop, and retain their workforce by exposing health and allied health professions students, trainees, and residents to education and training programs at the Centers. The Readiness to Train Assessment Tool (RTAT™) was created

by Community Health Center, Inc., to achieve this goal. The RTAT™ was designed specifically for FQHCs, to identify the readiness of Health Centers for an HP-ET program. The tool will allow Health Centers throughout the country to share feedback regarding their Centers' readiness to engage in health professions training. All staff members are invited to complete the survey and provide their input. NJPCA has sent the survey link to each of the Health Centers and will provide continued support and technical assistance.

NJPCA has also convened a new Workforce Peer Group to share resources regarding the HP-ET initiative. The Workforce Peer Group will meet quarterly for training and peer-to-peer exchange. Group members will also receive an opportunity to share input on NJPCA's Bi-Annual Salary Survey to ensure the survey tool reflects Centers' needs accurately.

As we look toward the new year, NJPCA is excited to offer more resources to help hire, recruit, and retain Health Center staff.

NJPCA Delivers Two-Part Telehealth Training Series

On October 20th and October 29th, NJPCA hosted two virtual telehealth training events. As part of a telehealth training series, the first training was titled, “Chronic Care Management and Remote Patient Monitoring.” This training was presented by Reconnect4Health Co-Founder and Executive Director Bonnie Britton, and Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center Director Dr. Katharine Hsu Wibberly.

Ms. Britton provided an overview of Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) as well as the benefits of increased reimbursement. RPM allows patients to collect their biometric data remotely. This data is then transmitted to the provider for review, which is critical to increase access to care and address health disparities during the pandemic. Ms. Britton also reviewed various conceptual models that can be used to develop an RPM program.

There are several devices a Health Center can utilize to monitor patient data remotely such as digital weight scales, blood pressure, heart rate, and digital glucose monitors. Ms. Britton provided examples of how Health Centers can monitor biometric data throughout the week, including how to validate the accuracy of the data. At the end of the presentation, Health Centers were provided various Medicare CPT billing codes for RPM services.

The second training titled, “Strategies for Addressing Telehealth Reimbursement Challenges and Achieving Financial Success” featured experts from the Northeast Telehealth Resource Center (NETRC).

NETRC Telehealth Revenue Cycle Optimization Strategist, and Islands Community Medical Services Inc. Director of Operations, Christina Quinlan and NETRC Project Manager Reid Plimpton led the training.

Ms. Quinlan provided an overview of FQHC-specific billing guidelines for telehealth services and reviewed various HRSA requirements.

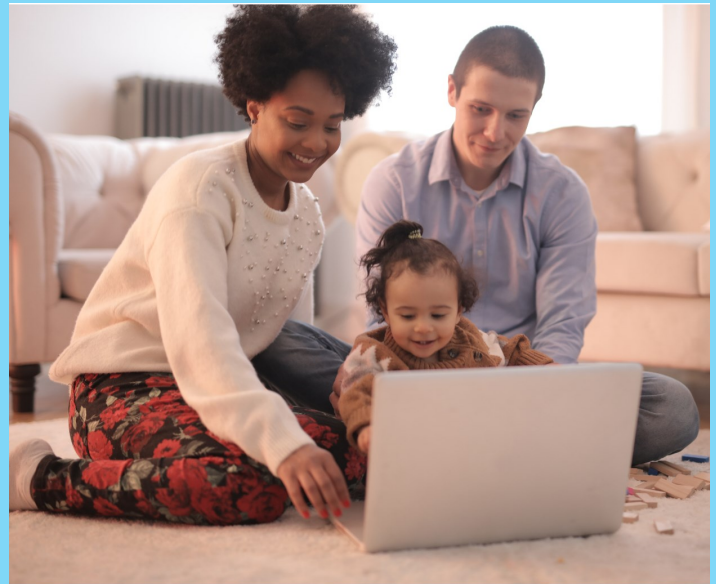


Photo Credit: [Andrea Piacquadio](#) from [Pexels](#).

Health Centers also received examples of telehealth services claims. Billing guidelines for telemedicine services during COVID-19 for distant site providers were discussed. At the end of her discussion, Ms. Quinlan provided the types of modifiers that billers can use for each payer. Health Centers also received information on the four types of virtual visit algorithms.

Mr. Plimpton continued the training by providing telehealth related tools and resources available to the Health Centers, as well as, COVID-19 telehealth related guidelines. An open question and answer session was followed by the presentation.

At the end of the question and answer session, the Clinical Directors, Billing Managers, and CFO Peer Groups met to discuss their telehealth programs, challenges, and best practices.

**Have questions about FQHC
telehealth resources?**

NJPCA Contact:
Brittnay Herrera
bherrera@njpcanet.org
609-689-9930

CMS Provides COVID-19 Updates for FQHC Emergency Preparedness Final Rule



Photo Credit: [Freepik](#).

On September 22nd, NJPCA hosted an Emergency Management Peer Group Meeting to engage the FQHCs in a discussion on PPE and preservation practices. Representatives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) also provided updates regarding the Emergency Preparedness Final Rule.

CMS' Northeast Survey and Enforcement Division Director Dr. Lauren Reinertsen and Center for Clinical Standards and Quality Branch Manager, Captain Maury Meredith, shared information regarding regulatory provisions to promote program efficiency, as well as the Burden Reduction Final Rule.

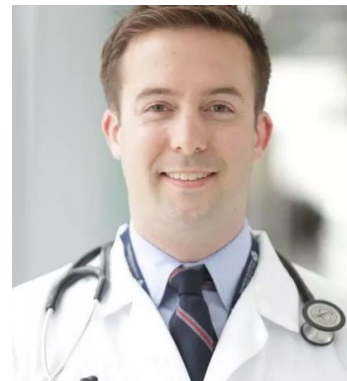
Additionally, Health Centers received Medicare and Medicaid updates. At the end of the training, CMS provided FQHC participants guidance as they navigate through both the pandemic and the flu season.

NJPCA Training Provides Strategies for HIV Prevention and Treatment

On November 6th, NJPCA held a virtual training titled, "Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: HIV Prevention and Treatment Options for Vulnerable Populations." The training featured the expertise of the National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center Medical Director, Dr. Kevin Ard. The National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center is a program of the Fenway Institute, located in Boston, Massachusetts.

During the training, Dr. Ard reviewed the principles of high-quality, affirming HIV treatment and prevention programming for LGBTQIA+ patients. He emphasized the importance of collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity data. Examples of culturally-competent questions to collect this information were provided.

Dr. Ard also highlighted how HIV prevention should be part of a Health Center's workflow, given that expanding access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a priority for HRSA. The focus of an HIV program should include diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV with PrEP. Later in the presentation, Health Centers learned how to identify PrEP candidates.



Pictured: Dr. Kevin Ard. Photo Credit: Fenway Institute.

Various examples were shared for Health Centers to identify which PrEP medication is appropriate to prescribe for patients based on varying circumstances. Dr. Ard provided information on PrEP financial assistance for patients and how Health Centers can advertise for their HIV program.

At the end of the training, participants received strategies to make care welcoming to the LGBTQIA+ community in their Health Center, as well as programmatic innovations to improve PrEP adoption and the facilitation of HIV linkage to care.

NJPCA represents 23 FQHC/Health Centers in New Jersey providing healthcare services at 136 locations throughout the state.

| LOCATION | PHONE | LOCATION | PHONE |
|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| Atlantic County | | Mercer County | |
| AtlantiCare Health Services | 609-572-6055 | Henry J. Austin Health Center, Inc. | 609-278-5900 |
| Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, Inc. | 609-567-0200 | | |
| Bergen County | | Middlesex County | |
| North Hudson Community Action Corporation Health Center | 201-210-0100 | Eric B. Chandler Health Center | 732-235-6700 |
| | | Jewish Renaissance Medical Center | 732-376-9333 |
| | | Jewish Renaissance Foundation, Inc. | 732-482-9600 |
| Burlington County | | Monmouth County | |
| Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, Inc. | 609-567-0200 | Monmouth Family Health Center | 732-413-2030 |
| Camden County | | Ocean Health Initiatives | 732-363-6655 |
| CAMcare Health Corporation | 856-583-2400 | Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Community Health Center | 732-774-6333 |
| Project H.O.P.E., Inc. | 856-968-2320 | | |
| Osborn Family Health Center | 856-757-3700 | Morris County | |
| Cape May County | | Zufall Health Center | 973-328-3344 |
| CompleteCare Health Network | 856-451-4700 | Ocean County | |
| Cumberland County | | Center for Health Education, Medicine & Dentistry | 732-364-2144 |
| CompleteCare Health Network | 856-451-4700 | | |
| Essex County | | Ocean Health Initiatives | 732-363-6655 |
| Jewish Renaissance Medical Center | 732-376-9333 | Passaic County | |
| Mary Eliza Mahoney Health Centers | 973-733-5300 | Paterson Community Health Center | 973-790-6594 |
| Newark Community Health Centers, Inc. | 973-483-1300 | North Hudson Community Action Corporation Health Center | 201-210-0100 |
| Saint James Health, Inc. | 973-789-8111 | Salem County | |
| Zufall Health Center | 973-328-3344 | Southern Jersey Family Medical Centers, Inc. | 609-567-0200 |
| Gloucester County | | Somerset County | |
| CAMcare Health Corporation | 856-583-2400 | Zufall Health Center | 973-328-3344 |
| CompleteCare Health Network | 856-451-4700 | Sussex County | |
| Hudson County | | Zufall Health Center | 973-328-3344 |
| Horizon Health Center | 201-451-6300 | Union County | |
| Metropolitan Family Health Network | 201-478-5800 | Neighborhood Health Services Corporation | 908-753-6401 |
| North Hudson Community Action Corporation Health Center | 201-210-0100 | Warren County | |
| Hunterdon County | | Zufall Health Center | 973-328-3344 |
| Zufall Health Center | 973-328-3344 | | |

Call the 24-hour New Jersey Family Health Center Line at 1-800-328-3838 to find services in your area.



New Jersey Primary Care Association
 3836 Quakerbridge Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619
 Tel: 609-689-9930 | Fax: 609-689-9940 | Web: www.njpca.org