
Codman Square Health Center honored Boston Police Commissioner William Gross and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and celebrated its 40th birthday at its Annual Public Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 8. Codman’s CEO Sandra Cotterell opened the meeting with a packed house of more than 150 community members, supporters, and Health Center staff at the Great Hall in Codman Square.

Commissioner Gross, the Police department’s first African-American commissioner, addressed the crowd saying that he felt like he was at home here in Codman Square. He reminisced about growing up in Boston neighborhoods and how those neighborhoods and the people in them shaped who he is today.

Gross addressed how much Codman Square Health Center means to the neighborhood for its health care, and specifically called out our mental health services. He pointed out that when he was growing up, it was considered weak to seek any kind of help, but that people have a better understanding of mental health today, and that “it’s OK to not be OK.”

CSHC Board President Bobby MacEachern delivered a rousing speech on Codman’s 40th birthday addressing the tenacity and dedication of the Health Center’s founders, two...
Community Members Gather for Health Screenings, Line Dancing, Children’s Activities

On Saturday, August 10, more than 100 community members came out to Codman Square Park to enjoy the Health Center’s Social Saturday celebration in partnership with the Codman Square Farmer’s Market. Codman hosts a party in the park each year to cap off National Health Center Week. Codman hosts a party with the Codman Square Farmer’s Market. Codman hosts a party with the Codman Square Farmer’s Market. Codman hosts a party with the Codman Square Farmer’s Market.

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Bikers provided the music and line dancing instruction, Fresh Food Generation served empanadas, cookies, and watermelon, and Health Center staff made balloon animals and did face painting for children. Codman health care providers performed blood pressure screenings, and talked to community members about different Health Center services.

If you missed the party, please join us next August!

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of whom were in the audience — Bill Walczak and Charlie O’Hara. He explained that the activists who got together to start the Health Center had to endure a lot of opposition, but they persisted and the Codman of today is a testament to that.

Cotterell delivered highlights of the year, including the fact that Codman served nearly 23,000 patients and completed more than 113,000 visits, which averages out to a visit every 2 minutes during business hours. She also honored Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley for her commitment not only to Codman and the Dorchester community, but to all people in need. Cong. Pressley could not attend because of a scheduling conflict, but Luz Villar, a Pressley staff member, accepted on Pressley’s behalf and spoke of the role Codman has played in important community activities.

Bill Walczak led the crowd in a rendition of Happy Birthday, and the crowd celebrated Codman’s 40th with cake and song.

Codman Welcomes Groundbreaking NIH Program — All of Us

Codman Square Health Center is pleased to welcome the All of Us Research Program to our Health Center — giving our patients and community an opportunity to change the course of medical history. Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as part of the 21st Century Cures Act, this historic initiative wants one million people reflecting the broad diversity of the United States to volunteer to join the program as part of a nationwide Precision Medicine Initiative.

Precision Medicine is health care that is based on YOU as an individual. An example of precision medicine is a prescription for eyeglasses that are customized just for you. Right now, the best medical treatment is one-size-fits-all — but everyone doesn’t react the same way to the same treatment.

Today, providers use the best results and recommendations to treat you based on research studies. However, research studies may not have included people like the patients they are treating in the office. No two people have the same genetics, lifestyle, history, or habits. In the future, medicine is going to be more precise and to have future treatments and preventons work better for everyone we need representation from everyone.

The All of Us Research Program wants to speed up health research and learn how to prevent diseases and provide treatments that work better for all of us. If enough people join and stay in the program, especially people from diverse populations, researchers will be able to study hundreds of thousands of health conditions for decades to come. Researchers will prevent diseases and provide treatments that work better for everyone we need representation from everyone.

All of Us is 100% committed to protecting every study participant’s privacy, and will do so this way:

1. Information from patients is stored on protected computers. Access to those computers is limited and tracked.

2. When information on participants is used by researchers, names and identifying information will be removed and replaced with a code.

3. Researchers must commit not to try to find out the identity of study participants.

4. All of Us will inform participants if there is a data breach.

There is a gap in medical research that only can fill. To learn more about the All of Us Research Program, stop by the table in the Codman Square Health Center Urgent Care lobby or speak to a research assistant.

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