CSHConnection

Summer 2010

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Dr. Geiger Visits Codman Square Health Center & Codman Academy

Dr. Jack Geiger, founder of the first community health centers in the US, came to Codman Square to learn more about the unique partnership between Codman Square Health Center and Codman Academy Charter Public School. The only school located within a health center, Codman Academy students benefit from going to school within a professional environment where clinical and community services are happening daily. Dr. Geiger's toured our facilities and talked with students in science classes. His remarks to the health center and school staffs focused on the origins of health centers, and how important improving educational outcomes was to the original health center model. He said that the earliest health centers included education departments which worked with families to ensure better educational outcomes for children, while the clinical staffs ensured better health outcomes. He praised the Codman effort to bring education back into the health center model. Codman students not only are able to learn about and get health services, but also participate in 2 two week internships in the health center to introduce them to health careers. Summer jobs are also available to some students to continue their interest in health careers. The school operates six days a week, and was just granted an increase by the state Department of Education to serve 145 high school students, who are chosen by lottery from the local community. For more on Dr. Geiger's visit, go to http://vimeo.com/11521890.

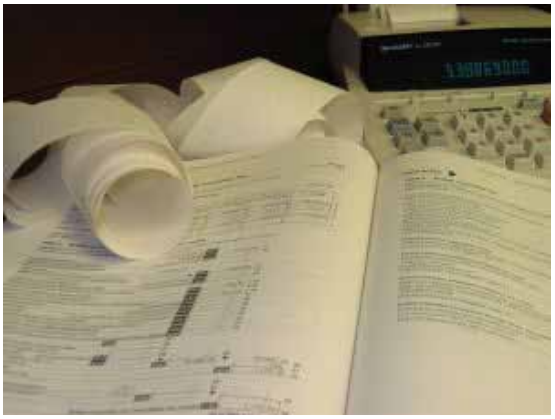
Pictured L to R: Executive Director Meg Campbell shows Dr. Jack Geiger around the school.

Pictured L to R: Dr. Jack Geiger, Bill Walczak, CEO of CSHC, and Meg Campbell outside the Health Center

Pictured L to R: Students from Codman Academy talk with Dr. Jack Geiger.

Taxpayers Receive over Six Million Dollars through Free Tax Program

As a member of the Boston Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition, the Codman Square Health Center was able to offer free tax preparation for hard-working Dorchester families through our partnership with Dorchester House and DotWell. Taxpayers who earned less than $49,000 in the previous tax year could have their taxes prepared for free and could claim important tax credits such as the EITC.



The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit available to many low-income families and individuals who worked during the tax year. This credit is not based on taxes withheld from a person's paycheck, but on how much total income a taxpayer earned over the course of the year. Low-income families can qualify for up to $4,741 in federal money, but most people are unaware of the EITC and therefore don't apply for it.

Local residents saved over $400,000 in filing fees alone. *Taxpayers received over six million dollars in total state and federal refunds.*

This program is staffed by 86 committed tax volunteers who are trained to prepare tax returns. These volunteers serviced 3,000 local residents at 450 Washington Street and at the Dorchester House. They also help tax payers access additional services including credit counseling, benefit screening and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) assistance. Our Dot-Well partnership offers a wide range of financial health services, from one-on-one credit counseling sessions to personal finance workshops. For more information on any of these financial health programs, contact Shauntell Foster at 617-822-8171 or by e-mail, shauntell.foster@dotwell.org.

HealthWorks at Codman Goes National!

The Health Center's partnership with HealthWorks was the subject of a radio report on WBUR which was picked up by National Public Radio and aired nationally on June 17, prompting a story on CNN and in Mother Jones Magazine, and many calls and letters from around the country. The partnership between the Health Center and HealthWorks created a women's and children's gym at the health center's 450 Washington Street location, with physicians able to write prescriptions for free memberships for women with health issues which would benefit from gym membership, and a sliding fee scale ($5-30) based on the income of women. To hear the story, go to http://www.wbur.org/2010/04/21/nonprofit-gym.

And, if you are a woman, there's no excuse not to exercise this summer. Healthworks at Codman is offering several sizzling summer classes including Zumba®, a Latin American dance inspired exercise class, TurboKick®, an energetic cardio kick-boxing class, belly dance, and more. There's a class for every woman at every level. Get out of the heat this summer and exercise in air-conditioned comfort. No more excuses, get fit and feel better this season! The center is open every day except Sunday. For more information, call 617-825-2800.

The Farmer's Market is Back!

The Codman Square Health Council's Farmers' Market is BACK! The Market features fresh produce and other products such as cheese, eggs, honey, jam, herbs and potted plants from the Silverbrook Farm in Westport. This year, our farmers will be joined by the When Pigs Fly Bakery, which is providing fresh bread, and other vendors. The Market is held every Thursday at Codman Commons across the street from the Health Center from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, ending October 28th. For more information about the Farmer's Market, call the Codman Square Health Council at 617-265-4189 or visit: www.codmansquarecouncil.org.

Men of Boston Cook for Women's Health 2010
Thursday, September 23, 2010

Don't miss this year's Men of Boston Cook for Women's Health which benefits women's health services at Codman Square Health Center. The Codman Square Health Center services almost 8,000 women each year. This year's event is sponsored by: Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of MA, Bob's Discount Furniture, Liberty Mutual, Boston Medical Center, and many others.

We have already begun to recruit our celebrity chefs, who at this writing include: Mayor Tom Menino, State Senator Jack Hart, Governor Deval Patrick, President political analyst, David Gergen, WGBH president, Jonathan Abbott, WBZ-TV president, Ed Piette and All Souls author Michael Patrick MacDonald.

As the celebrity chefs cook under the gala tent in front of the health center there are many others behind the scenes taking care of a community of women. One of CSHC's initiatives is our Centering Pregnancy program. This program provides women of all ages a supportive and caring atmosphere during and after pregnancy. Through this model of care, women are encouraged to choose health-promoting behaviors. Some of the documented benefits for participants included delivering full term babies at healthy birth weights.

PACT Diabetes Project

The Health Center is fortunate to be working with the PACT (Prevention and Access to Care and Treatment) Project, a division of Partners In Health, to help health center patients who have the most serious, uncontrolled cases of diabetes. Community Health Workers, located at the health center, work with PACT staff to provide home visits and case management, and also participate in a research study to measure the effectiveness of treating and managing the disease through community health workers. The program is built off PACT's HIV program, which works with health center physicians in targeting high risk HIV patients.

Codman Square Health Center Passes with Flying Colors!

In April and May the Codman Square Health Center and its laboratory were inspected by the Joint Commission, the agency which certifies hospitals and health centers. They ensure that we comply with all regulations and sound practices. In both instances the inspectors not only did not find any matter of import, they remarked on the quality of care and the good condition of the facility as well as the professionalism, knowledge and friendliness of staff. Congratulations to staff for showing again that Codman care is second to none!

New Pharmacy to Open at Health Center

Codman Square Health Center will begin offering pharmacy services on July 12. Our new pharmacy is located on the ground floor of the health center's main clinical building at 637 Washington Street. Eaton Apothecary, which also operates the pharmacy at CSHC's partner health center, Dorchester House, will operate our pharmacy. The pharmacy will allow health center providers to offer patients more comprehensive care, consistent with "medical home" concepts, facilitating better care coordination and addressing issues of compliance, compatibility and affordability of medications. The new pharmacy will be open to community residents as well as CSHC patients, addressing a void left by the closing in 2009 of the pharmacy across the street from the health center. Check CSHC's website at www.codman.org for updates on the pharmacy.

School-Based Health Clinic Celebrates 15 Years

In 1995, Dorchester High School, now called the Dorchester Education Complex, in partnership with the Codman Square Health Center, officially opened their doors to their first health clinic located inside of the school. The clinic has expanded in recent years to house a dental clinic also staffed by members of the Codman Square Health Center and is one of only two such clinics statewide. In addition to providing immunizations required by the state, other services offered to students include HIV testing, nutrition counseling, mental health services, asthma treatments, and TB testing.

Bill Walczak, Chief Executive Officer of the Codman Square Health Center noted, "Having a health clinic and more recently a dental practice within a school gives us an enormous advantage in that we can address a wide array of health issues on the spot without the student missing time out of school or the parent having to schedule time out of work. This clinic has made a significant difference in the lives of many students".

Pictured above from L to R: Medical Director, Dr. Severin, City Councillor, Charles Yancy, School Based Health Clinic Program Director, Jane Tuitt, City Councillors, Ayanna Pressley, John Connolly and CSHC CEO, Bill Walzcak celebrate 15 years of care.