Codman Square Health Center CONNECTION

Summer 2016

Attorney General Maura Healey addresses the crowd at Codman Square Health Center's Public Annual Meeting on June 15, 2016.

ADAPTING TO MEET CHANGING NEEDS

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Codman Square Health Center hosted its Public Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 15 in the Great Hall in Codman Square. The meeting featured keynote addresses from two of our states most important and forward thinking leaders, Attorney General Maura Healey and Secretary of Health & Human Services Marylou Sudders.

It was Attorney General Maura Healey's first visit to the Health Center, and she was quick to acknowledge Codman's contribution to the neighborhood. "Codman Square Health Center really defines this community and it has over the years in its ability to evolve and adapt and meet changing needs. It is truly inspiring for someone like me because this is a vision that's bold in what you're trying to do." Both Attorney General Healey and Secretary Sudders were honored with the Codman Square Health Center Community Service Award for the work they both do to lead our state to provide resources to communities like Codman Square.

Health Center leadership presented on updates at Codman throughout 2015, including many ways the health center continues to adapt to changing needs and new Health Care industry changes. From work to prepare for new technology to increased Behavioral Health and Primary Care integration, Codman Square Health Center is on the forefront of providing the highest quality healthcare. As 2015 wound down, once again the health center was recognized as the highest level of Patient-Centered Medical Home.

Pictured (L to R): CSHC Board President Rev. Garvin Warden, Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders, CSHC CEO Sandra Cotterell, former Board President and current board member Marva Serotkin, and Attorney General Maura Healey.

Additionally Codman Square Health Center honored its outgoing board president and longtime board member, Marva Serotkin, the President of The Boston Home.

Angela Daniel, Codman Academy summer intern, assists Yolanda Burell, Clinical Care Coordinator, with taking a patient's blood pressure in the Dental Care Department.

CODMAN ACADEMY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This summer Codman Square Health Center once again welcomes a large cohort of interns from its co-located partner high school, Codman Academy Charter Public School. These student internships provide firsthand experience in the healthcare and nonprofit fields from dental to pediatrics to administration. Eight MLK Jr. Summer Scholars, an elite corporate summer jobs program run by John Hancock, and eight interns sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield have joined the Health Center for 6 and 7 weeks respectively. All but one of the interns are alumni or current students of Codman Academy Charter Public School. This opportunity for students to intern at the Health Center is also offered throughout the school year, but these summer positions are more intensive and provide a more in-depth experience for these students. Student interns are working full time, and learn directly from Codman staff while being able to provide the Health Center support in a variety of practical ways.

The internship program has developed into an incredibly mutually beneficial aspect of the relationship between Codman Academy and the Health Center, with students gaining important job experience, and the Health Center receiving valuable assistance. One of this summer's interns, Angela Daniel, an MLK Scholar in Dental Care reflected on her experience so far, "We have done so much in our short time of being here... It makes me very happy hearing my supervisor say, 'You learn so quickly and you do a great job.' It lets me know that I am making the best out of my experience." This unique program allows students to continue to build relationships with health center employees as they return to school thanks to proximity and shared spaces between the two institutions.

DR. HINDIN RECEIVES SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT

Rachel Hindin, MD, MPH has been awarded a 1 year Mass League of Community Health Centers (MLCHC) Special Projects Grant to implement her proposed project: "Practice Transformation: Integrating PCMH Principles into the Internal Medicine Resident Practice." The MLCHC Special Projects Grants are intended to support Health Centers in retaining valued primary care providers by providing those providers with an opportunity to work on a project of interest to them. Dr. Jonathan Pincus was a prior recipient at Codman. His project focused on supporting the development of a Medical Clinic in Leogane, Haiti.

Dr. Hindin is an internal medicine physician who joined Codman in 2010. She is presently the Program Coordinator for the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program that provides outpatient training for Internal Medicine Residents from Boston Medical Center and Brigham & Women's Hospital.

Dr. Hindin is a graduate of Harvard College, and the George Washington School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She holds an MPH from George Washington University School of Public Health and completed Internal Medicine Residency Training at Columbia University Medical Center in NY. Prior to joining Codman, she was an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, MO and provided outpatient care and administered the Internal Medicine Resident Training Program at the Grace Hill Murphy O'Fallon Clinic.

The health center anticipates a variety of positive outcomes her project will have

on Resident Training at Codman, including improved alignment of the Resident Practice with the Patient Center Medical Home (PCMH) care model and the Health Center mission, an improved experience for patients receiving care from Residents, and an improved experience for our Residents that we hope will lead to more of them choosing to practice at Community Health Centers in their future careers.

years, Charlie has served as President of the Codman Board and is still currently the Board representative on the Performance Improvement Committee. His dedication to our mission for 40 years, always showing up for each board meeting, has led Codman Square Health Center into the organization it is today. Charlie is a former teacher and he and his wife, Seater, were previously involved in Dorchester real estate. He holds a B.S. and a M.Ed. from Boston University and completed graduate studies at the Boston Teacher's College.

Pictured (left): Sue Joss, Chair of MLCHC Board; Charles O'Hara, Co-Founder & Board Member CSHC; James W. Hunt, Jr., President & CEO Massachusetts League of Community Health Center. (below): Sandra Cotterell, CEO CSHC; Charles O'Hara, Co-Founder & Board Member CSHC; Seater O'Hara; Anthony Stankiewicz, Esq. CAO & COS CSHC; and Heidi Crim, CNO CSHC.

CHARLES O'HARA HONORED

Charles "Charlie" O'Hara is known by many as the heart and soul of Codman Square. A long-time resident of Dorchester from 1935 to the present, Charlie is a co-founder of Codman Square Health Center and has served as a board member since 1976. After 40 years of service to the health center and our community, the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers proudly recognized Charlie with the Joseph M. Smith Consumer Award at their awards gala in June. The Joseph M. Smith Consumer Award was established in honor of the late Joseph M. Smith who served on the League's Board of Directors and was an avid supporter of the community health center movement in Boston. It is given to longtime board members who embody the vision and soul of the community health center movement.

Charlie undoubtedly has embodied the Codman spirit: dedicated, caring, and forward-thinking. Over the past 40

LGBQ/T EQUITY WORK

This has been a season of many firsts here at Codman Square Health Center. For the first time, the Health Center took part in this year's Pride parade on Saturday, June 25, 2016. Codman's LGBQ/T (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer & Questioning/and Transgender) community and allies came together with joy to celebrate our strength and pride.

Another first for the organization was the establishment of an Employee Resource Group for LGBQ/T staff and allies to come together and have meaningful conversations about how we can keep moving forward to foster a culture of equality and respect in our workplace and community. "As the LGBQ/T Equity Committee, we strive to appreciate the different perspectives a diverse population brings to the table, and ensure they are understood and supported in the workplace," stated the group member Jonathan Reveil.

We're making meaningful progress. In July, the Health Center held its first LGBQ/T sensitivity training for all staff. Renowned guest speaker, Dr. Harvey Makadon from The Fenway Institute, conducted the training on LGBQ/T terminology, history and methods of inclusion for LGBQ/T patients in a healthcare setting. All of the particulars of LGBQ/T care, according to Dr. Makadon, can't be summed up quickly, but there are essentials that can make patients feel more safe and comfortable. For example, asking respectful questions, such as someone's preferred pronouns, and creating designs that increase LGBQ/T visibility.

According to recent data, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual youth are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide as their heterosexual peers, and nearly half of transgender youth have seriously contemplated suicide. This year the CDC estimated that 50% of African American men who have sex with men will become infected with HIV during their lifetime. 9 out of 10 LGBT students report being bullied. "These figures represent a catastrophic failure of our health care system and of our society. As a health center we are dedicated to working to eliminate health care disparities and social injustice and to provide a welcoming and safe environment for a diverse staff and the diverse community we serve. We can do better, we must do better," says Medical Director of Internal Medicine, Dr. Jonathan Pincus. With a long road ahead, Codman is proud to be part of the work to make things better.

ADDRESSING THE ZIKA VIRUS

Since the spread of the Zika virus across much of the global south and beyond, Codman Square Health Center has implemented some important steps to keep our patients safe. It is particularly relevant here, as our patient population at Codman is at greater risk due to many of our patient's Caribbean ties, one of the most affected areas with Zika.

We have implemented universal screening of our prenatal population in collaboration with our partners at Boston Medical Center (BMC) and the Department of Public Health. Patients who screen positive for travel are referred to BMC for a blood test and additional ATU ultrasounds. Also, our providers have been trained in preconception counseling to help patients avoid Zika infection in pregnancy.

We are posting educational information around our health center and online in order to help educate the population on the risks and appropriate ways to help prevent the spread of Zika. The primary recommendations are:

1. ***Defer travel to affected countries if pregnant or planning pregnancy.***
2. ***Use condoms for the duration of the pregnancy if a male partner has traveled recently.***
3. ***Discuss with your provider if you have any questions.***

We will continue to pay close attention to the rapidly changing guidelines as the epidemic evolves.

Zika virus infection is an infection caused by Zika virus that is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. The Zika virus can also be transmitted sexually. The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week after being bitten by an infected mosquito. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika. For this reason, many people might not realize they have been infected.

Zika virus can be spread from a pregnant woman to her fetus and has been linked to a serious birth defect of the brain called microcephaly in babies of mothers who had Zika virus while pregnant. CDC recommends special precautions for pregnant women. Pregnant women, women planning pregnancy, and their male partners should consider delaying travel to areas with Zika.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

Each year in the second week of August, health centers nationwide celebrate the impact we have had in our communities. One of the most effective primary care provider networks in America's healthcare system, community health centers started over 50 years ago right here in Dorchester as a pilot project during President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Today, over 1,300 health centers across the country have a significant record of success including producing $24 billion in annual health system savings, reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and unnecessary visits to the emergency room, generating $26.5 billion in economic activity and over 230,000 jobs, and reducing infant mortality rates. Here in Massachusetts, our 50 health centers have surpassed national benchmarks for a host of clinical quality measures, including those focused on asthma, hypertension, healthy birthweights for newborns and immunizations.

Codman Square Health Center takes National Health Center as an opportunity to celebrate and thank our staff who make all of our work possible. Each year we recognize five Health Center Heroes, nominated by their coworkers and selected by a staff committee, and have a staff appreciation celebration with our annual Frozen Yogurt Social. This year's health center heroes includes Claude Hilaire, Managed Care Representative; Eric Hwang, MD in Pediatrics; Yahaira Infante, Medical Assistant in Pediatrics; Jacqueline Rue, Family Partner Case Manager; and Maymone Valentin, Lead Technician in the Lab.

Codman Square
Health Center

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