

The Community Health Centers Newsletter

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INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS? PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO CEO@CHCB.ORG. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION AND SERVICES, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CHCB.ORG.



Save the Date in July!

Community Health Centers Tenth Annual

Salud

Presented by

ReArch COMPANY

CONSTRUCTION • DEVELOPMENT • PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

In-Person Event July 27, 2023

"Salud" is the premiere local auction of upscale wines, Vermont-made goods and unique local experiences.

The Community Health Centers of Burlington is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and Federally Qualified Health Center funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and generous community support. CHCB is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n).

All CHCB programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities. This newsletter is available in alternative formats upon request.

Notice of Privacy: The Community Health Centers of Burlington protect the health information of our patients and gift information of our donors in all of our activities including our fundraising work. If you no longer wish to receive newsletters, fundraising appeals, or event invitations from us, please contact the CR&D Department at 617 Riverside Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401, kanderson@chcb.org, or call (802) 264-8193.

OVER 52 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Celebrating 30 Years of Dr. John "Fire in your Belly" Brooklyn



"The people who work at CHC are **highly qualified** and **so committed** to taking care of people."

- John Brooklyn, MD, CHC Provider

Big things happened 30 years ago: Bill Clinton became the 42nd U.S. President, "Jurassic Park" was the most popular movie, and Beanie Babies went on sale for the very first time. More notably than all those, Dr. John Brooklyn began working at the Community Health Centers! As the longest-serving CHC employee, Dr. Brooklyn has changed how primary care is delivered in our community and thousands of lives have been saved because of his work.

Dr. Brooklyn graduated from UVM medical residency in 1992. In 1993, he was recruited by Dr. Richard White who was one of two physicians working at CHC during that time. "I remember being impressed at how socially conscious he was; the limited

Community Health Center staff was so committed to helping the vulnerable populations in our area when many others weren't," Dr. Brooklyn recalled.

In three decades, Dr. Brooklyn has seen CHC grow from a handful of employees to over 350, add eight more practices, and be on the forefront of creating innovative programs. "Operationally, the biggest changes were moving from paper to electronic medical records, and establishing 'pods' where medical teams could integrate with different departments like mental health," he explained. "But programmatically, I'm most proud of CHC for adopting the Hub and Spoke program for opioid addiction treatment so quickly."

Often referenced as the 'Godfather' of the Hub and Spoke model in Vermont, Dr. Brooklyn was the first to introduce the concept of intensive treatment options combined with office-based care, like CHC, for opioid use disorder. Dr. Brooklyn credits CHC for their non-judgmental, clinical understanding which lead to such a fast solution. "The people who work at CHC are highly qualified and so committed to taking care of people," he said. "They have a fire in their belly and won't rest until all members of the community are helped." He continued, "Although I won't practice medicine forever, I know that CHC will always provide quality care with the best people."

A Note from Jeff

"... we are increasingly able to provide the **responsiveness that our patients have come to expect from CHC.**"

- Jeff McKee, PsyD, CHC CEO

■ As the last reminders of winter continue to hang on, we can see the hopeful and welcome signs of spring emerge through the snow. Very similarly, we see the vestiges of the pandemic being replaced by the clear signs of "normal" operations. It's encouraging to see our staffing levels returning to what they were before the pandemic. With adequate staffing, we are increasingly able to provide the responsiveness that our patients have come to expect from CHC; it is our highest priority to provide timely and accurate responses to all patient requests.

The staff's hard work is evident in the feedback we've recently received.

Speaking of feedback, we are so grateful to have received more than 1,000 responses to our most recent patient survey which helped us to prioritize our organizational initiatives. Whether patients had compliments to offer, or told us what we could do better, their feedback was so valuable and so helpful. This input is what helps us better serve our community, and for that, we're thankful!

Across all of our work, we are



doing our very best to improve equitable access to health care. We are excited to reveal our new CHC – Pharmacy at our Riverside practice in May. Patients from any CHC location will be able to have their prescriptions filled at this new pharmacy. It is our goal to ensure that ALL our patients have affordable access to the medications they need, when they need them. We appreciate the support from our community partners as we continue our work in the coming months.

- Jeff

Advocacy Impact

■ In 1989, the Community Health Centers was designated a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), which has since allowed us to provide so many incredible benefits to our patients. Our mission is known widely; we proudly offer medical, dental, mental and psychiatric health care to all members of our community regardless of the ability to pay. It's what we've done for the last 50 years, and what we will do for 50 more! But as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, FQHCs face a new unique set of threats that could endanger our ability to provide care to our most vulnerable community members.

On February 6, 2023, the Community Health Centers hosted our first "Legislative Event" to have an open



discussion with Vermont state representatives about the specific issues faced by FQHCs. Among those who are making important policy and funding decisions in Montpelier, our leadership team was able to speak about CHC's work and present what's at stake for primary care. Inflation is increasing three times as fast as our Medicaid rates, our base federal

grants (intended to subsidize our reduced fees) have been stagnant for over 10 years, and our savings historically gained through a federal prescription drug program are eroding.

As alarming as those factors may seem, we consider ourselves fortunate to have extraordinary support from our federal and state legislators and other stakeholders who understand our commitment to increasing health equity. We're pleased to have such strong advocates for our important mission, and urge anyone in our community to also share in their support of FQHCs.



Expanded COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts

■ It is safe to say everyone has experienced (or is experiencing) the phenomenon that has been aptly named "pandemic fatigue." Defined as "a form of psychological exhaustion that can lead to a lapse in the behaviors that help protect us from infection from COVID-19," and almost three years into a global pandemic, it is almost an

unavoidable feeling. As a health care organization, however, we have shifted many of our duties to combat that universally-felt exhaustion and remind folks that while there's light at the end of the tunnel, the fight isn't quite finished.

Aiding in our efforts is the Health Resources and Services

Administration (HRSA), which recently granted CHC over \$300k to fund expanded COVID-19 vaccination efforts. We quickly rose to action to offer additional vaccine clinic hours, and worked with Vermont Public, Green Mountain Transit and WCAX to increase advertising for the clinics. As we explain in our advertising,

we understand shots are a (literal) pain, but receiving a vaccine can reduce the effect COVID-19 has on you and others you come in contact with. We are so proud to be able to offer pediatric, primary and booster vaccines to our community.

CARE for YOU. CARE for ALL.



Community Health Centers

Are you up to date on your COVID-19 shots?

CHC offers vaccines throughout nine locations in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties.

Details at: www.CHCB.org

Community Health Centers

CARE for YOU. CARE for ALL.

Stay Up to Date on COVID-19 Vaccinations!
La Soco Wixii Ku Soo Kordha COVID-19 Tallaalada
Restez à jour de vos COVID-19 vaccinations
করোনা ভাইরাস থেকে COVID-19 রোগ প্রতিরোধ
Theo dõi thông tin cập nhật về COVID-19 cách này
Pata Tairifa za Sasa Kuhusu COVID-19 Chango

A COVID-19 Vaccination is a Safe Way to Build Immunity!
Visit www.chcb.org to Learn More!

(Graphics Shown at an Estimated Size)

