

**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.

Fiscal Year 2023 Highlights



133,381
patient visits



603
patients received
treatment for
opioid addiction



2,953
dental patients
were treated for
emergent needs



1,422
individuals
experiencing
homelessness
received no-cost
health care



\$371,888
was subsidized
through the
Sliding-Fee Scale
Financial
Assistance Program

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.

Oral Health Expansions: A Reason to Smile



Ali Green, Dr. Elicia Thompson, Katelyn Denton, RDH

Investing in the health of our community takes the appropriate resources and shared collective vision of so many people working towards the same goal. Our upcoming Dental Center growth is a perfect example of that health investment, combining opportunities with community partners and a highly skilled and committed CHC staff. As our Dental Director, Dr. Elicia Thompson, explains: “The new leadership team that was created in the Dental Center during the pandemic has been instrumental in our ability to say ‘yes’ to opportunities when presented. Ali Green, Dental Practice Manager, and Katelyn Denton, RDH, Dental Clinical Supervisor, have brought their different voices and expertise to build on our dental team’s service to the community. We’re all excited about the upcoming plans to expand access to quality oral health care to our existing patients and new ones to come!”

Vermont Dental Care Joins CHC

When Dr. Chuck Seleen began Vermont Dental Care (VDC) 50 years ago, he had a vision of high-quality, affordable, and accessible dental services for all. We are excited to add our support and resources to the incredible foundation he established and announce that the VDC Winooski practice has joined CHC. Patients will now be able to take advantage of the benefits that a Federally Qualified Health Center like CHC has to offer such as the Sliding-Fee Scale and comprehensive, integrated health care services. Welcome, VDC in Winooski!

CHC – Champlain Islands Dental Center Opening Spring 2024

In 2021, Senator Patrick Leahy’s office presented a golden opportunity to apply for \$1 million in congressionally directed spending for rural health service expansions, and we are now using the awarded funds to create a complete Dental Center in South Hero next Spring! Northeast Delta Dental has also generously committed to helping us build these five dental operatories within our existing space in the CHC – Champlain Islands building’s lower level. This new dental center will provide the local Islands community the convenience and access to affordable, quality oral health services.

CHC Dental Care at Green Mountain Surgery Center

A new partnership with Green Mountain Surgery Center has been created to allow for our CHC dentist, Dr. Emily Keller, to provide dental procedures safely under full anesthesia to special needs patients. This pilot is just one day per month at the moment, but there is such a vital clinical need for patients to receive care outside of a traditional outpatient setting, we’re hopeful it will become a sustainable model.

A Note from Jeff

"We are grateful for the **generous support of our community** that allows CHC to commit to **expansion opportunities...**" - Jeff McKee, PsyD, CHC CEO

■ Implementing our vision to improve the health of ALL can take many forms. Sometimes that work includes developing new services or locations that expand our reach to underserved members of our community. And sometimes it means partnering with other health care providers to ensure the continuity of services. The recent passing of Dr. Chuck Seleen, founder of Vermont Dental Care (VDC), created a need that CHC is proud to meet by committing to continue his legacy of service to the community.

We are truly pleased that all the VDC staff and patients have become part of our organization. The tradition of quality health care to which both organizations have committed is now even more fully integrated under a single umbrella. Together, we will continue to provide comprehensive and accessible dental care in a space we have shared for many years in Winooski's O'Brien Community Center.

We are grateful for the generous support of our community that allows CHC to commit to expansion



opportunities such as this. In our Fall Newsletter, we always include a list of needed items identified by our staff to improve patient care. It is the support from our donors and community partners that allows us to convert the commitment and passion of our staff into services that benefit ALL.

Thank you!

Managing the Baby Blues

■ Even in the ever-changing environment that is health care, CHC remains consistent in providing accessible, quality medical, dental, and mental health care to all our patients. An excellent example of this integrated care model at work is CHC's Maternal/Child Health Program. Physicians, Medical Assistants and Mental Health Clinicians work together to ensure expecting parents and our tiniest patients receive the care they need. Lincoln Heath, MD, has been working on CHC's OB Team since 2015 and expressed the following: "Mental Health Clinicians are an integral part of our team and provide an immense amount of assistance with mental health screening and support, and case management needs. We are uniquely designed to care for folks with limited resources, and we

prioritize ensuring that we connect people to social support systems and make sure their families have food security, housing stability, and reliable transportation."

CHC's patient population in this program, compared to others in Vermont, is 48% limited-English speaking (compared to 7%), with 8% experiencing homelessness (roughly double), and 88% Medicaid enrolled (also about double).



Taking all of this into consideration, CHC's average PHQ-9 score (a patient health questionnaire specifically designed to measure depression rates) is still less than half that of the comparison group, despite this patient population having statistically higher rates of depression overall. "One of the reasons why our PHQ-9 scores are so low," commented Dr. Heath, "is that we are screening everybody, not just those with pre-existing depression, to ensure that we are identifying anyone who is at risk for perinatal mood disorder."

It is a collaborative effort to provide wraparound care from the moment an expecting parent walks through our doors and throughout their postpartum period – no matter who they are and what they need.

WISH LIST

Your donations go straight to work with these specifically-needed items. Any amount helps!

Dental Items \$10,000

New and replacement instruments and equipment are always needed in our Dental Center:

- Dental Endodontic System for advanced dental treatment with specialty tools - \$2,000
- Dental Instruments/Equipment for use at the Green Mountain Surgery Center (GMSC), a new anesthetic service that we are able to provide for our adult special needs population - \$2,000
- Patient anesthesia stipend, also for the new service we provide at GMSC when insurance doesn't cover the operating room fee - \$4,000
- Dental Hand Instruments for hygiene and restorative services - \$2,000

Translated Documents \$2,400

It is extremely important to provide accurate medical information and directions to patients, and the following documents would be appreciated in our top-spoken languages.

- Six translated Specimen Collection Guides to help collect accurate samples for our laboratory - \$300 each
- Medication Refill Instructions - \$600

Site Updates for At-Risk Youth \$10,000

Our CHC - Pearl Street practice, that serves at-risk and/or homeless youth, was damaged by unexpected flooding and requires new flooring. This update is needed to create and maintain a warm and welcoming feel for the young people coming in for care.

Distraction Toys for Laboratory \$1,500

Our pediatric patients sometimes have upsetting times getting their blood drawn in our laboratories. It would be helpful to have a supply of toys to help distract them, and then give them a prize to help them recover when it's all over.

Bus Passes for Patients \$125

Many of our patients rely on the bus system to get to and from their appointments. This will provide 100 bus passes.

Nursing Education Items \$2,000

The Nursing Education Program implements, designs, assesses, and modifies the clinical training for our nursing staff in order for them to achieve excellency in providing evidenced-based nursing care in the clinical setting. Needed items include a CPR manikin, skin and vein replacement kits, and phlebotomy arm tubing sealant to name a few.

HemoCue Machine \$800

This machine measures hemoglobin level with finger sticks versus venous blood draws, and gives instant results.

Portable Automatic Vital Sign Machines \$1,600 each

Eight machines are needed to allow clinical staff to verify hard to read/hear vitals and can be used in emergency situations where vital signs need to be consistently monitored.

Phlebotomy Arm Supports \$125 each

We would like 16 mobile arm rests to help eliminate one of the biggest challenges to drawing patients' blood in exam rooms and make the procedure a safer and more comfortable experience.

Maternal/Child Health Program \$1,000

Our OB Team provides support services to new mothers and has an ongoing need for helpful supplies including diapers, home automatic digital blood pressure monitors, Nepali children's books, and trinkets for our toy boxes.

To make a donation or learn more, please contact Kim at kanderson@chcb.org or (802) 264-8193.