

**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.





SALUD

April 4, 2025 at 6:30pm
The Essex Resort's Farmhouse

CHC's signature fundraising event, Salud, will feature some of Vermont's finest gourmet chefs, unique local items and experiences, and one of the only live wine auctions in the area - all to benefit our community!

Tickets on sale now: www.chcb.org/donate/salud

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OVER 54 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE
QUALITY OF LIFE AND HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Our Commitment to Care without Barriers

■ Community Health Centers across the nation are facing challenging times. Executive orders from Washington, which have fulfilled their promise of exhibiting “shock and awe,” have left many of our friends, neighbors, and families feeling scared and uncertain about the future of care provided by these centers. At CHC, we are staying vigilant, adaptable, and responsive to ensure that we can continue to offer the high-quality, equitable care that we have for decades. In addition to the medical, dental, and mental

health services we provide, our staff often serve as a support system for individuals and communities impacted by sudden policy changes. Patients turn to us in their time of need, and we offer clarity and reassurance when things feel overwhelming. In response to the ambiguity much of our community is feeling, we created a series of statements to remind patients that we are here for them.

Now more than ever, continued collaboration is paramount to ensuring CHC's presence within

the community. The greatest impact comes when health care leaders, state and local representatives, and community members engage in open dialogue, making sure that every voice is heard, and every decision is made with collective strength.

The road ahead is uncertain, but one thing remains clear: CHC always has been, and always will be, a place for everybody and together, we will continue to ensure that access to health care remains a right, not a privilege.

**Access to health care is a human right.
Your identity does not determine your
right to comprehensive care.
Gender affirming care is health care.**

 **all are welcome here.**



**Access to health care is a human right.
Income level does not determine your
right to quality care.
Affordable care is health care.**

 **all are welcome here.**



**Access to health care is a human right.
Where you were born does not determine
your right to receive care.
Culturally responsive care is health care.**

 **all are welcome here.**



**Access to health care is a human right.
Life circumstance does not determine your
right to compassionate care.
Equitable care is health care.**

 **all are welcome here.**



A Note from Jeff

"Together, we can strengthen the future of health care in our community."

- Jeff McKee, PsyD, CHC CEO

■ Times of difficulty are often when I find myself most grateful to work at a place like Community Health Centers. It is heartening to work with such a dedicated, committed, dependable team, whose primary goal has always been to do what is right for our community, no matter what it entails. Health centers in Vermont have faced many challenges already this year, and unfortunately, we expect more down the road. The flurry of activity from our nation's capital brought forth a need for us to create a broad organizational statement that reaffirms our mission:

"Since 1971, CHC has been a tireless advocate for the health care needs of our patients. Over those 50 -plus years, we have witnessed many changes, but our dedication to fulfilling our mission of caring for all has never waned. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing care in a space where everyone feels valued, respected and safe."

CHC's unwavering commitment to providing care to ALL is an unparalleled quality that makes us special - and has for over 50 years. But we cannot do this work alone.



As we face political and financial pressures, we look to partners like you to support and advocate for CHC as we continue to care for our state's most vulnerable. Together, we can strengthen the future of health care in our community - and I am certain that we will emerge even stronger.

Quality Counts

■ The Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) model has been proven time and time again to keep people healthier, reduce emergency department visits, and lower health care costs. When people have access to primary, preventative health care that they can afford, they are less likely to develop chronic conditions and enter the emergency department unnecessarily. Locally, our patients are receiving the care they need to stay healthy, preventing more long-term and difficult-to-treat conditions down the road.

CHC monitors a variety of Clinical Quality Measures (CQMs) for our patients. Several of these CQMs relate to chronic conditions that disproportionately affect low-

income or diverse populations and carry higher risk of morbidity if not well controlled; these include measures related to diabetes and hypertension control, or preventive screenings that may be difficult to access due to financial barriers as they require office visits for exams or clinical education and assessment. In 2024, we saw significant improvements in chronic condition and preventative care measures: Cervical cancer screening increased from 26.5% to 36.12%, hypertension control improved from 58.75% to 61.34% and HIV screening increased from 30.43% to 34.74% (the VT benchmark is 16.18%). We're also proud that the percentage of CHC patients with poorly controlled



diabetes went down from 28.94% to 27.22% (the national benchmark is 30.42%). We're proud of this data, as it shows how effective affordable and preventative health care can be!

Path to Chief Medical Officer

2016 SPRING NEWSLETTER



Caring for the Mind and Body

CHCB's Combined Family Medicine-Psychiatry Provider

Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, as Dr. Greenlee explained, he was inspired by his grandfather, the community's sole physician. Upon learning his last name,

primary care physicians. "Seeing this situation play out over-and-over led me to seek alternative training opportunities to fill the gap." Dr. Greenlee's dual "physicianship" was

■ Almost ten years ago, we wrote a newsletter story that featured our newly hired employee, Dr. Adam Greenlee. We were especially excited about Adam starting because he was CHC's first-ever provider dually licensed in family medicine and psychiatry. He was our integrated health care model, personified! Some colleagues have even fondly referred to him as CHC's "double doc." Over the last decade, Adam has spent his time caring for patients in his medical practice while also helping them work through their mental health challenges with a seamless fusion. He took on the Medical Director of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health role midway through this time, and now he's committed to strengthening our organization even further as CHC's newest Chief Medical Officer.

A throughline of his time at CHC has been supporting his colleagues within the primary care setting to feel more competent in meeting the mental health needs of our community. "Of course I'm proud of

the direct patient care I provide, and I'm equally proud of the assistance I can offer those with whom I work," he said. And although CHC has been offering a patient-centered approach that combines physical and behavioral health care for decades, Adam says the concept is still evolving in its implementation. "Medicine is taking a more comprehensive approach to care, but certain areas are still having a difficult time putting it all together – like how to pay for it," he explained.

"...I'm equally proud of the assistance I can offer those with whom I work."

-Adam Greenlee, MD, CHC CMO

It's hard not to highlight the extreme health care challenges that our community has experienced in the time Adam has worked at CHC. From the opioid epidemic and COVID-19

pandemic to the changes in mental health needs in post-COVID life, he is continually impressed with CHC's ability to quickly respond with the fiercest dedication to our patients. Whether it was transitioning to telehealth technology in a matter of days or collaborating with community partners to expand access to critically-needed mental health services, "CHC answers the next call," he said proudly.

As Adam 'answers the next call' as Chief Medical Officer, he will also take time to reflect on an important lesson he's learned along the way: "Pace yourself," he said. "Just like in Medicine, it's often not about starting a treatment and seeing an immediate change; it's about being there to experience the ups and downs over the years and finding the positives in your individual trajectory."

We're so appreciative of our double doc's leadership and are excited to see what the next ten years hold.