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NEW HAMPSHIRE CELEBRATES NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK - AUGUST 5-11, 2012

NEW HAMPSHIRE –JULY 30, 2012 - New Hampshire's 17 Community Health Centers will join more than 1,200 other Community Health Centers nationwide to raise awareness of their accessibility, affordability, and quality of care during National Health Center Week August 5-11. Local events and an open invitation to call or drop in at your local Community Health Center for more information are taking place throughout the week in New Hampshire.

Community Health Centers provide access to medical, dental, behavioral, and mental health providers and low-cost pharmacy; many health centers offer all the services under one roof. All NH Community Health Centers utilize Electronic Health Records where doctors record lab results, prescribed medications, and treatment plans for each patient to reduce testing redundancy and the issuance of conflicting medications by other providers. When a health care provider has immediate access to this information, it can save a person's life, especially in the event of an emergency.

The "medical home model of care" has been followed by Community Health Centers since Dr. H. Jack Geiger established the first two Community Health Centers in Cambridge, MA, and Mound Bayou, MS, in 1965. The medical home model treats the whole person and ensures access to health care by facilitating support services including interpretation, transportation, and assistance applying for other support services.

Community Health Centers have decades of experience managing diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and other key health indicators. This past year, several NH Community Health Centers were selected to participate in two statewide health care reform pilot projects to help determine best practices for new Accountable Care Organizations and Patient Centered Medical Home initiatives.

High quality care by nationally recognized doctors, dentists, and other clinicians is available to all ages within Community Health Center service areas. Community Health Center case managers help patients access a wide range of support services, enabling all patients to become enrolled regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay. Especially helpful to the business community, Community Health Centers provide local access to primary and preventive health care, while also serving as the nation's safety-net provider for the uninsured. Enter your address in "Find a Health Center in NH" at www.bistatepca.org to find a Community Health Center near you.

Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association, serving Vermont and New Hampshire, is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization promoting access to effective and affordable primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care and preventive services for all, including the uninsured and under-insured, through Community Health Centers in New Hampshire and Vermont. More information is available online: www.bistatepca.org.

NH EVENTS:

Wednesday, August 8:

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services Business After Hours with Littleton Area Chamber of Commerce. Open to the public. Introduction of the on-site pharmacy and tours of the new health center.

Time: 5:00-7:00 PM. **Location:** Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, 25 Mt. Eustis Rd, Littleton, NH. **Contact:** Denise Crowley: 603-444-8216 or denise.crowley@achs-inc.org. (www.achs-inc.org)

Indian Stream Health Center's Annual Community Meeting. Celebrating the expansion and remodeling of Indian Stream Health Center in Colebrook. Buffet dinner and Guest Speaker, Michelle Dillon, PhD, University of NH. **Time:** 5:30 PM. **Location:** The Inn at Bear Tree, Hilltop Pavilion, 3329 US Rte. 3 N, Pittsburg, NH. **Contact/RSVP:** Gaetane Boire at (603) 388-2432/ gaetane.r.boire@indianstream.org. (www.indianstream.org)

Thursday, August 9

Coos County Family Health Services Business After Hours with Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce. Open to the public. **Time:** 5:30-7:30 PM. **Location:** Coos County Family Health Center, **Contact:** Adele Woods (603) 752-3669 x 4018 or awoods@ccfhs.org. (www.coosfamilyhealth.org)

Saturday, August 11

Lamprey Health Care's 5K Road Race. Runners register online in advance. Proceeds support Lamprey's pediatric programs and services. **Time:** Starts at: 8:30 AM. **Location:** Newmarket Community Center, 207 So. Main St, Newmarket, NH. **Contact:** Anita Rozeff (603) 659-2494 or arozeff@lampreyhealth.org. (www.lampreyhealth.org)

New Hampshire Community Health Centers:

Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Franconia, Littleton, Warren, Whitefield, Woodsville, (603) 444-2464, www.achs-inc.org

Concord Hospital Family Health Center, Concord, Hillsboro, (603) 228-7200, <http://concordhospital.org>

Coos County Family Health Services, Berlin, Gorham, (603) 752-2040, www.coosfamilyhealth.org

Families First Health and Support Center, Portsmouth, (603) 422-8208, www.familiesfirstseacoast.org

Goodwin Community Health, Somersworth, (603) 749-2346, www.goodwinch.org

Harbor Care Clinic, Harbor Homes, Inc., Nashua, (603) 882-3616, www.harborhomes.org

Health Care for the Homeless Program, Manchester, (603) 663-8716, www.catholicmedicalcenter.org

Health First Family Care Center, Franklin, Laconia, (603) 934-1464, www.healthfirstfamily.org

Indian Stream Health Center, Colebrook, (603) 237-8336, www.indianstream.org

Lamprey Health Care, Nashua, Newmarket, Raymond, (603) 659-3106, www.lampreyhealth.org

Manchester Community Health Center, Manchester, (603) 626-9500, www.mchc-nh.org

Mid-State Health Center, Bristol, Plymouth, (603) 536-4000, www.midstatehealth.org

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Claremont, Derry, Exeter, Keene, Manchester, W. Lebanon, (800) 230-7526, www.plannedparenthood.org

Charlestown Family Medicine, Charlestown, (603) 826-5711, www.springfieldmed.org

Weeks Medical Center, Groveton, Lancaster, Whitefield, (603) 788-4911, www.weeksmedical.org

White Mountain Community Health Center, Conway, (603) 447-8900, www.whitemountainhealth.org

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