



CONTACTS:

Pamela Jonah on behalf of
Neighborhood Health Plan
781-956-6865
pam_jonah@howellcomm.com

Rich Copp
Partners HealthCare
617-278-1031
rcopp@partners.org

Kerin O'Toole
Massachusetts League of
Community Health Centers
617-988-2241
kotoole@massleague.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Walsh joins Neighborhood Health Plan, Partners HealthCare, and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers to Announce \$6 Million in Grants to Community Health Centers

Grant to MGH Community Health Centers creates groundbreaking opiate therapy management program serving Charlestown, Revere, and Chelsea

September 25, 2015 (Charlestown, MA) — The *Partnership for Community Health*, an initiative of Neighborhood Health Plan and Partners HealthCare in partnership with the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, today announced it has awarded \$6 million in Excellence and Innovation grants for community health centers (CHCs) statewide, including funding to develop a groundbreaking opiate therapy management program in Charlestown, Revere and Chelsea.

Partnership officials, with support from Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh, announced 12 new grants to support 22 community health centers across Massachusetts. The announcement was made at an event in Charlestown at Massachusetts General Hospital's Community Health Center, which received \$540,000 to develop new and more effective ways to assist area patients with opioid use disorder and those on chronic opioid therapy.

"The people of Boston deserve the right to access affordable, quality healthcare," said Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "I am honored to provide support to Neighborhood Health Plan, Partners HealthCare, and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers for the Partnership for Community Health Initiative and I look forward to seeing the results of their efforts in bringing positive change to the community."



FOUNDED BY BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
AND MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

*An initiative of Neighborhood Health Plan
and Partners HealthCare to support
Community Health Centers*

The initiative will give MGH Community Health Center sites in Charlestown, Revere and Chelsea the capacity to identify at-risk patients, track those patients over time, and improve care for patients with opioid use disorder and those on chronic opioid therapy. Such patients include those managing chronic pain; those with opioid use disorder, including patients being treated with buprenorphine maintenance therapy for opioid disorder; and those with chronic Hepatitis C infection. The project will create a patient registry for each of these categories and will staff positions to manage the program.

“This grant allows each of these centers to create new approaches to care for patients with opioid use disorder and those on chronic opioids for pain. This will serve these three communities, help establish standards of care, and ensure safe and effective treatment for all patients,” said Sarah Wakeman, MD, Medical Director for Substance Use Disorders at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Launched in 2012, the *Partnership for Community Health* has committed over \$16 million in funding to support the continued efforts of community health centers to reduce barriers to access, promote health equity, and provide care for patients in their communities. The two year Excellence and Innovation grants are focused on new initiatives that improve the patient experience, increase capacity to serve more patients, and support the successful work of CHCs in implementing high-quality, cost-saving strategies such as care coordination.

“NHP has a longstanding commitment to community health centers and the critical and innovative role they play in serving communities throughout Massachusetts,” said Neighborhood Health Plan President and CEO David Segal. “The Partnership for Community Health grants support this innovation by funding new initiatives that allow the centers to continuously improve quality and cost efficiency on behalf of their patients.”

“Community Health Centers are an essential part of the health care ecosystem,” said Peter Slavin, MD, President of Massachusetts General Hospital. “Health centers enable us to better understand and meet the needs of our local communities. This grant initiative will foster new clinical innovations across Massachusetts – patients everywhere will benefit from the programs developed and the lessons we learn.”

“Massachusetts health centers have been pioneering new wellness initiatives for the state’s communities since 1965,” said James W. Hunt, Jr., President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. “We are grateful for these leading investments from the Partnership, which will go far in building upon the legacy of health centers in advancing primary care.”

Following a competitive application process, 12 grantees were selected for individual or collaborative, multi-organizational grants. Specific CHC initiatives supported by the grants include: funded staff positions called “quality navigators” that use patient health data to support self-management activities for cancer and hypertension prevention in underserved communities in Boston; a telehealth initiative on Cape Cod and the Vineyard that supports remote patient care for people with chronic conditions; automated kiosks to speed patient check-in in Worcester; and a care coordination call center that will make preventive care reminder calls in the South Shore.

The Excellence and Innovation grant recipients are listed below:

[Bowdoin Street Health Center](#)

[Caring Health Center](#)

[Codman Square Health Center](#)

[Community Health Center of Cape Cod](#)

[Island Health Care](#)

[Dimock Community Health Center](#)

[DotHouse Health](#)

[East Boston Neighborhood Health Center](#)

[Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center](#)

[Family Health Center of Worcester](#)

[Greater Roslindale Medical & Dental Center](#)

[Harbor Family Services, Inc.](#)

[Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center](#)

[Lynn Community Health Center](#)

[Manet Community Health Center](#)

[Mattapan Community Health Center](#)

[MGH Community Health Center](#)

[South Boston Community Health Center](#)

[South Cove Community Health Center](#)

[South End Community Health Center](#)

[Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center](#)

[Upham's Corner Health Center](#)

About Neighborhood Health Plan

Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP) is an NCQA-accredited, not-for-profit health plan that provides coverage to over 400,000 commercial and MassHealth members. For more than 25 years, employers, individuals, and families across Massachusetts have turned to NHP for health care coverage that is both high-quality and affordable. NHP is known for plans that are easy-to-understand and manage. Members have access to a robust network of top doctors, community health centers, and academic and regional hospitals. Founded in 1986 with a commitment to promote health equity for members within the diverse communities we serve, NHP's service and care management programs today continue the tradition of personalized and high-quality care. NHP is a member of Partners HealthCare.

About Partners HealthCare

Partners HealthCare is an integrated health care system, founded by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, that offers patients a continuum of coordinated and high-quality care. In addition to its two academic medical centers, the Partners system includes community and specialty hospitals, a managed care organization, a physician network, community health centers, home health and long-term care services, and other health care entities. Partners HealthCare is committed to patient care, research, teaching, and service to the community. Partners is one of the nation's leading biomedical research organizations and is a principal teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Partners HealthCare is a non-profit organization.

About the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Established in 1972, the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers ("the League") is the statewide association representing and serving the needs of the state's 49 community health centers, which serve some 935,000 patients, or one out of seven state residents. The League supports health centers through grassroots advocacy; technical assistance with state and federal health regulatory and policy issues; promotion and management of clinical quality initiatives; training and education for administrators, clinicians and board members; help with health center technology development; and work with local health advocacy organizations seeking to open health centers in their communities. The League also serves as an information source on community-based health care to policymakers, opinion leaders and the media.