

**Media Contact:**

Bryan Wyatt  
Director of Policy & Communications  
Maine Primary Care Association  
(207) 707-4536  
[bwyatt@mepca.org](mailto:bwyatt@mepca.org)

## Maine Primary Care Association Announces Winners of the 2021 Clinical and Administrative Excellence Awards

**Augusta, ME – Oct. 7, 2021** – The Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA), a membership organization representing the collective voices of Maine’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Clinical and Administrative Excellence Awards, which will be presented at our virtual Annual Conference taking place on Thursday, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, and Oct. 21. The Clinical and Administrative Excellence Awards were created in 2005 to honor the contributions and accomplishments of individuals and health center advocates working to ensure that affordable, high quality health care is available to all Mainers.

This year, MPCA is recognizing five individuals for their leadership, dedication, and support of Maine’s Community Health Centers. The 2021 award winners are as follows:

- Holly Gartmayer-DeYoung President’s Award – **In Memory of Theresa Bray Knowles, FNP-C**, Chief Quality Officer, Penobscot Community Health Care
- Carol Eckert, MD Memorial Award – **Gita Rao, MD, MPH**, Clinical Director, School Based Health Centers, Greater Portland Health
- Community Champion Award – **Hope House Team**, Penobscot Community Health Care
- Behavioral Health Excellence Award – **Laura Valencia Orozco, LCSW**, Maine Mobile Health Program
- Unsung Hero Award – **Community Care & Geriatrics Team**, Penobscot Community Health Care

Darcy Shargo, CEO, Maine Primary Care Association, said, “Maine’s Community Health Centers are home to a remarkably talented and selfless group of individuals. Their compassionate care and dedication to the communities they serve are a model for us all. This year’s award recipients have risen above the throes of a worldwide pandemic in service of others and truly exemplify what it means to put patients first. They couldn’t be more deserving of this honor.”

### About Maine Primary Care Association

Founded in 1981, Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA) is a membership organization that represents the collective voices of Maine’s Community Health Centers, which provide high quality, primary and preventive medical, behavioral health and dental services to over 210,000 individuals (1 in 6 Mainers) each year. With 70 service locations throughout the state, Maine’s Community Health Centers provide high quality care to our underserved and rural populations. Often referred to as Maine’s healthcare safety net, our community health centers provide more than \$16,000,000 in uncompensated care and \$7.5 million in free and reduced cost prescriptions annually while being ranked in the top five nationally per capita in assisting the uninsured and underinsured gain health insurance. For more information, please visit us on the web at [mepca.org](http://mepca.org) or call (207) 621-0677.

###