

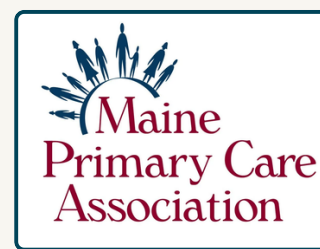
# CHC AMBASSADOR NEWSLETTER

## ORAL HEALTH AT CHCS

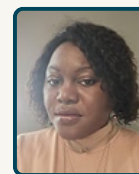
At Community Health Centers (CHCs) across Maine, oral health care is viewed as an essential part of overall health and well-being. There are strong correlations between good oral health and blood pressure control, diabetes management, and other conditions, reinforcing the important role oral health plays in primary care and behavioral health.

Health centers provide dental care directly at their service sites, or offer a coordinated referral service. In 2022, over 38,000 Mainers received dental services from a CHC. CHCs serve as critical oral health access points to Maine people and are especially vital for uninsured or underinsured individuals. CHCs have a mandate and mission to offer services to all, regardless of insurance or ability to pay, and this extends to dental care.

CHCs employ dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists and other health care professionals to deliver services. Dental therapists play an important role in expanding the reach of the health center dental care team. They are trained to provide preventive and routine restorative care (filling cavities, placing temporary crowns, some tooth extractions). The addition of dental therapists to dental care teams allows health centers to expand quality care to more patients and provide treatment to more underserved, at-risk populations.



## ANNICK METOULE: MPCA's ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER



MPCA is delighted to welcome Annick Metoule to the team! Annick is dedicated to advancing oral health initiatives and making a positive impact in Maine's healthcare landscape. She is passionate about collaboration, inclusivity, and prioritizing health and equity. With a background as a Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), she obtained her master's degree in public health (MPH) from the University of New England. Annick was also a practicing medical doctor in Gabon before coming to Maine.

## SUPPORTING THE ORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

The MPCA team works to support the oral health workforce at Maine CHCs through resources and trainings. A highlight of this is the work being done in the CareerSteps program, in partnership with the Maine Department of Labor. Nineteen Dental Assistants have been enrolled in this training program and three have graduated - several finding employment at a Community Health Center!



## TAKE ACTION TODAY

**New Advocacy Resources on Maine CHCs.** MPCA's [Advocacy Resources](#) page has a number of resources that are available for you to use to help spread the message about the great work that CHCs do across our state. New materials are now available: [What are FQHCs?](#), [How FQHCs are Paid](#), [FQHC Priority Issues](#), [FQHCs and Health Equity](#), [FQHCs and Behavioral Health](#).

## CHCs IN THE NEWS

### Islands Community Medical Center

Dinah Moyer has returned to Islands to serve as the CEO. We are excited to welcome Dinah back in her new/old role!

### Maine Mobile Health Program

Amelia Lyons Rukema has been appointed as the new CEO. She has extensive experience supporting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, having worked as the State Director of the Maine Migrant Education Program and with Mano en Mano.

### Fish River Rural Health

In June, the Fish River team celebrated the ongoing construction of a new facility in Madawaska that is slated to open in 2025. The health center began providing part-time services for the area in 2017 and quickly saw that more access to care was needed in the community. Also being celebrated is Fish River CEO Heather Pelletier, who received her Master of Public Health degree from A. T. Still University. This is the fifth degree she has completed with a 4.0 GPA!

### Greater Portland Health

The health center is now operating a new mobile medical van, focused on reducing barriers to accessing harm reduction and substance use disorder treatment options. It will be an extension of outreach clinicians have been doing on foot throughout downtown Portland.

### HealthReach Community Health Centers

HealthReach has received Platinum Status as part of the MaineHealth Center for Tobacco Independence (CTI) Breathe Easy Maine initiative, the highest award level.



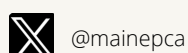
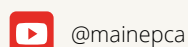
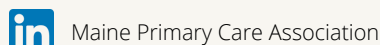
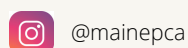
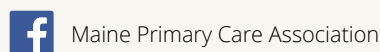
## SHARE YOUR WHY

Use your voice and experiences to share, inspire, and motivate Members of Congress and your peers to protect Community Health Centers. Visit the Health Center Advocacy Network and record a video today.

### SHARE YOUR STORY HERE

## MPCA SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us online to stay up to date on the latest news across the CHC network.



## READING CORNER

The Commonwealth Fund released survey results that highlight the important connection between mental health and social drivers of health. The article also provides insights on how other countries are approaching this relationship.

[How Mental Health and Social Needs Are Intertwined — Inspiration from Other Countries on Connecting People with the Help They Need](#)

# MPCA'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER NETWORK

