

CHC AMBASSADOR NEWSLETTER

MPCA ATTENDS NACHC PARTNERS CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE

MPCA team members traveled to Washington in November to attend the National Association of Community Health Centers Partners Conference and to share valuable insights with attendees about our work on behalf of Maine's CHC Network. CEO Darcy Shargo was part of a panel discussion on the role Primary Care Associations play in the adoption of medications for substance use disorder, and Director of Policy Hannah Hudson spoke on creating a culture of advocacy in Maine, drawing on lessons from the CHC Ambassador Program.



*Darcy Shargo,
Chief Executive Officer*



*Left to Right: Hannah Hudson, Director of Policy;
Megan Cross, Data Systems Program Manager;
Dr. Chris Pezzullo, Chief Clinical Officer; Sharon
Stanley, Director of Operations Improvement*



READING CORNER

Advocates for Community Health released a special report on how CHCs utilize 340B savings. The 340B Drug Pricing Program allows CHCs, which have limited flexible funding streams at their disposal, to use their 340B savings for services that are non-reimbursable. As ACH reports, "the financial impact of these savings cannot be overstated, as they allow FQHCs to stretch their already scarce federal resources as far as possible, enhancing their services and expanding their reach in often overlooked communities."

[SPECIAL REPORT: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF 340B AT FQHCs](#)

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](#)

PATIENT-CENTERED BOARD LEADERSHIP

Did You Know? Community Health Centers are governed by volunteer boards of directors committed to serving their communities and working to ensure the financial and operational success of health centers. CHC boards are unique among nonprofit organizations because federal law requires 51% of board members to be patients of the health center. This ensures that the board is reflective of the patient population that the CHC serves, which helps the health center be responsive to patient and community needs.

TAKE ACTION TODAY



National Call-In Campaign in December! Join advocates across the country and take action as Congress prepares for big decisions in the lame-duck session coming out of the November election. [Call](#) or [email](#) your federal delegation members this month to ask for increased funding for community health centers and policies to ensure sustainability for CHCs and the 32.5 million patients we serve!

CHCs IN THE NEWS

Penobscot Community Health Care

PCHC has [announced](#) that Preble Street will take over operations of the Hope House, a low-barrier shelter in Bangor. Operations will officially shift to the non-profit in February.

A News Center Maine [report](#) on school-based health centers highlighted the clinics that PCHC operates in the Bangor and Brewer school districts and RSU 34, allowing students to access care quickly, without leaving school.

Greater Portland Health

The same News Center Maine [report](#) also featured the work that GPH is doing to provide care to students in the South Portland Middle School. Students are able to receive sports physicals, immunizations, dental exams, and mental health care.

Earlier this fall, GPH [participated](#) in the first Oral Health Equity Conference sponsored by Cross Cultural Community Services.

In our last issue we shared GPH's participation in the AHEC Network Case Competition as a judge. The [event](#) took place in November and 49 participating AHEC Scholars to create care plans for a case study focused on maternal and child health for an asylum-seeking mother.

Fish River Rural Health

FRRH [participated in a job fair](#) hosted by the St. John Valley Chamber of Commerce and CEO Heather Pelletier was on site to meet with potential new employees. Earlier this year, the health center celebrated construction of a [\\$14 million health care facility](#) in the Madawaska Midtown Plaza. The project is set for completion in late 2025.

Pines Health Services

Dr. John Gluscic has [joined](#) the Orthopedics and Sports Medicine team at Pines. They are welcoming new patients and procedures will include, but are not limited to, ACL repair, arthroscopies, carpal tunnel release, knee and hip replacements, rotator cuff repair, nerve decompression and sports medicine.

Pines [recognized](#) the Annual Great American Smokeout by providing free nicotine replacement therapy kits and resources.

In honor of Veteran's Day, Pines and Cary Medical Center sponsored a showing of the documentary film "The Unknowns" for the community.

Maine Mobile Health Program

MMHP has been [awarded a grant](#) from the Maine Cancer Foundation to support essential cancer screening services for Maine's farmworkers—who are disproportionately affected by cancer compared to the general population.

CEO Amelia Lyons Rukema was quoted in the [Bangor Daily News article](#) about the connection between immigration and the fruits and vegetables on our tables. "Without farmworkers there is no food," she said. "Unless you live off the grid and harvest all your food, we are all reliant on farmworkers around the country."

MMHP has announced a number of new Board Members: [Milagros "Millie" Sanchez](#), healthcare, psychology, and community engagement leader [Chris Marine](#), Founder & CEO of Campfire Consulting, and [Chloe Manchester](#), Infectious Disease Epidemiologist.

MPCA'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER NETWORK

