



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Community Health Center of Franklin County
Concludes National Health Center Week 2015

Events Were Part of National Campaign Celebrating 50 Years of Success in Healthcare
Delivery

August 18, 2015 The Community Health Center of Franklin County is proud to announce it has successfully concluded two celebratory events last week marking National Health Center Week 2015 (NHCW) which offered, among others things, refreshments and health information from our providers and staff on:

August 10th from 4-6pm at 450 West River St. Orange, MA 01364

August 13th from 4-6pm at 489 Bernardston Rd. Greenfield, MA 01301

This year's theme was America's Health Centers: Celebrating our Legacy, Shaping Our Future. Part of the success can be attributed to comments made by Mark Wright, Executive Director of the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce as he addressed many area residents and staff in attendance at the event in Orange. His remarks highlighted the importance of having access to care as well as the importance of the Community Health Center's role as an active economic engine in the area.

Special guests and featured speakers at the event in Greenfield included Greenfield Mayor William Martin and Massachusetts Senate President Stanley Rosenberg, both offering supportive comments about the Community Health Center of Franklin County. The Senator drew attention to the role of a particularly influential former Board member, Dr. Desmond Callan, who took part in guiding the formation of the organization nearly 18 years ago. Also offered by Senator Rosenberg on behalf of the State Senate was a citation which will provide the Community Health Center of Franklin County a distinct spot in the state's history books.

Kenneth Guilbault, CEO stated: 'It's important for us to be recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for providing increased access to affordable care and providing a new model of integrated care.'

These events offered attendees a variety of resources including information covering several health topics as well as information from several area resources including The Center for Human Development (CHD), Baystate Reference Labs and The Consortium. Staff of the Community Health Center also offered free dental and blood pressure screening, voter registration and assistance with health coverage.

Opportunities of this type fall in line with the mission of The Community Health Center of Franklin County: to care for the health of our community. Services offered by the Health Center include providing primary medical care, dental care, integrated behavioral health services with CHD, nutrition counseling and diabetes education.

The Community Health Center of Franklin County provides primary care and dental services to more than 7,300 Franklin County residents. Our long standing collaboration is critical to many of those we serve, working closely with Center for Human Development, Community Action!, local chambers of commerce, Franklin/Hampshire Career Center and many other service agencies. This collaboration helps us reach those who need primary care or dental services the most, many of whom have gone without care for many years. We consistently provide assistance to area residents who might otherwise encounter significant difficulty navigating the healthcare system, including the most vulnerable.

To learn more about health centers and the Access is the Answer campaigns please visit the: National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) at www.nachc.org.

National Health Center Week website at www.healthcenterweek.org.

You can also follow the #NHCW15 hashtag on Twitter.