

2016 Grant Recipients

Allison Sherwood, FNP-BC

Charles River Community Health

Improving the Quality of LGBT healthcare

This project will target Charles River Community Health staff along with the community at large by improving the health centers ability to deliver care in a culturally competent and sensitive manner to the already vulnerable community. Ms. Sherwood will be improving her knowledge base and working to disseminate the information learned by presenting to other clinic staff. She will advocate as a provider champion in the area of LGBT healthcare delivery and tailor current standards of care to CRCH. The project will enable her to pursue the long term goal of establishing CRCH as an LGBT friendly resource in the community.

Rachel Hindin, MD

Codman Square Health Center

Practice Transformation: Integrating PCMH Principles into Internal Medicine Resident Practice

This grant will support Dr. Hindin's goal to transform the internal medicine residency training program practice into a residency practice that is in keeping with the principles of the patient centered medical home. She will work to develop and institute a new paradigm for the internal medicine resident practice that is focused on team-based care and practice transformation, thereby improving the experience for patients and internal medicine residents at CSHC. Work will also be done to enhance the residents' education in the social determinants of health.

Ivy Brackup, MD

DotHouse Health

Increasing Resiliency to Improve Well-Being and Decrease Burnout in Health Center Providers

The goal of this project is to provide a program at DotHouse to increase resiliency and decrease burnout in providers. This program will be based on the Mindful Communication Program at the University of Rochester and would include a wellness curriculum (mindfulness and self-awareness exercises), as well as training in communication skills, and additional areas that have been shown to increase resiliency. Dr. Brackup's goal of this project is to improve DotHouse Health physician/provider well-being and to increase happiness and satisfaction in their practice of medicine.

Jordana Weil Price, MD

Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental

Redefining Chronic Pain

As the opioid crisis reaches more people and an increasing number of patients with chronic pain fill community health centers, providers struggle to find a balance to adequately treat a patient's pain without overprescribing. With this grant, Dr. Weil Price will address that struggle and the risk of under-treatment of chronic pain by creating a controlled substances program so CHC's can better screen, identify, and assess if opioid pain medication is working and/or if other modalities of treating pain would better address the patient's pain.

Christopher Bositis, MD

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Expanding primary care access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)

The use of antiretroviral medication to prevent new HIV infections in patients at risk has been shown to be highly effective, however lack of familiarity with this approach among both patients and providers has limited its uptake at the GLFHC. With this grant, Dr. Bositis will develop clinical protocols and EHR forms to make it easier for clinicians to identify appropriate PrEP candidates and initiate PrEP. Dr. Bositis and other key team members will implement strategies to reach high risk groups, and establish a PrEP panel management system to track key clinical indicators and ensure that PrEP is being prescribed safely and effectively to reduce the burden of HIV in the GLFHC community.

Liz O'Dair, MD

Holyoke Health Center

Acupuncture for Acute and Chronic Pain Management

The grant will support an 8 month mini-fellowship at Harvard University's International Structural Acupuncture course for Physicians for Dr. O' Dair. Through this mini-fellowship, Dr. O'Dair will initiate a comprehensive pain management program for HHC patients who have thus far been provided with usual care, consisting of medication and follow up appointments. The goal of this program is to create consistent and appropriate opioid prescribing practices for the health center as a whole, as well as provide appropriate and evidence-based treatment alternatives, and to give guidance and support to providers as they care for chronic pain patients.

Sara Utzschneider, NP

Lynn Community Health Center

Lynn CHC LGBTQ Clinic

This project will support the work of a multidisciplinary committee at LCHC to design, develop, and implement a clinic to improve access to care for underserved LGBTQ population in the North Shore. Ms. Utzschneider and her committee will work on improving access, decreasing barriers to providing care for LGBTQ within LCHC, professional development of the committee members, and provider retention. The committee strives to improve their own clinical knowledge on LGBTQ health needs, train LCHC staff, and implement a new LGBTQ clinic at LCHC in a sensitive, comprehensive and intentional manner.

2015 Grant Recipients**Katherine Kates, FNP-BC**

Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center

Increase awareness of the pelvic floor in the primary care setting

Chronic pelvic pain (CPP) is a diagnosis that affects 1/7 women. It is a neglected problem that deserves increased attention from health care providers because of its impact on the quality of life of the affected women. Under-resourced Latina, Spanish-speaking women with low health literacy, who lack access to gynecologists or pelvic floor rehab clinics, make up the majority of JMSCHC's patients. Ms. Kates will complete 3 training modules to gain increased knowledge of the pelvic floor anatomy and myofascial release techniques to reduce CPP, to integrate this knowledge into regularly scheduled clinic sessions.

Rachel King, MD

DotHouse Health

Improving primary care provider awareness around substance abuse and safe controlled substance prescribing

This project aims to decrease substance abuse in the Dorchester community and improve provider awareness around substance abuse issues through early identification and intervention for patients with unhealthy substance use, improved treatment and monitoring of patients with active addictions, and development of additional resources for physicians managing patients who are prescribed controlled substances.

Emily Lowenberg, NP

Upham's Corner Health Center

Mini-Fellowship in Physical Therapy

The grant will support a 6 month mini-fellowship at New England Physical Therapy Plus for Ms. Lowenberg. Through this mini-fellowship, she will gain a deeper understanding of the evaluation and treatment of the most common musculoskeletal conditions that affect the patients at UCHC. In addition, she will build relationships with physical therapists in the UCHC community in order to improve the communication and referral process from the UCHC clinic to theirs. A medical assistant will also learn about the equipment and set-up of the PT sessions, and strategize with Ms. Lowenberg about which aspects of the PT center can be brought back to the clinic. This project will make Ms. Lowenberg a “mini-expert” on local PT resources, allowing her to recommend specific therapists to her primary care colleagues depending on their patients’ needs.

Nicholas Mayer, MD

Lynn Community Health Center

Creating a Lifestyle Medicine Team

This project applies lifestyle medicine and coaching techniques to help a core group of providers at LCHC improve their communication skills and adopt healthier work habits and lifestyles. Particular attention will be paid to helping providers learn and use basic wellness coaching techniques in their work. By the end of the project, the members of this core group will demonstrate improved communication skills, improved understanding of the role of lifestyle medicine in promoting health, improvement in personal health-related behaviors, and increased satisfaction with their work and life.

Olivia Pop, MD

Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Hepatitis C Clinic Development

This project aims to develop a Hepatitis C clinic at BNHC. Dr. Pop will develop protocols, working with insurance companies to fine-tune the pre-authorization process for the medication, attending group visit and other relevant training, developing and presenting staff training for the program, developing marketing materials, and launching the program. This project will provide life-changing benefit to patients who have been suffering with Hepatitis C for years.

Olga Valdman, MD

Family Health Center of Worcester

Refugee Health Mini-Fellowship

The goal of this project is to provide additional training and mentorship to develop Dr. Valdman's expertise in refugee health, identify unmet needs and best practices, and establish connections with organizations and community providers who will strengthen the network of partners in the community to address refugee health. More than 2,000 refugees from countries around the world have been resettled in Worcester during the past 5 years. This growing population requires additional care and competence to meet their long-neglected health care needs.

2013 Grant Recipients

Cassandra Jones, DMD

Community Health Programs, Inc.

Expanding Children's Access to Dentistry

The grant supports the major expansion of pediatric dentistry so that the young population of under-serviced south Berkshire County can receive quality preventative dental care and develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime. The grant will allow CHP to shine a spotlight on childhood oral health as a community health issue: make it's Dental Center more child-friendly; strengthen collaboration among health professionals and educate parents of young children.

Keith Nokes, MD

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Developing the Future CHC Workforce: Design and Implementation of a Curriculum in Underserved Medicine/Community Health Centers for Third Year Medical Student Clerkships

The project supports the development of additional and expanded curriculum on primary care to underserved patients within CHCs targeted at 3rd year medical students.

Laura Bonacore, BSN, MSN, AE-C

Lowell Community Health Center

Improving Contraceptive Compliance Through Text Messaging

This project aims to improve contraceptive compliance among teens ages 13-19 who seek services through the Family Planning department at LCHC. The funds will be used to create system that allows teens who initiate short acting reversible contraceptive methods to receive test messages to remind them of the need to return to clinic for contraceptive supply visit. Data from those who participate in the text messaging study will be compared to their peers who do not participate in order to determine the effectiveness of the intervention.

Christine Malagrida, APRN-BC

North Shore Community Health Center

Development of a NSCHC Lean Curriculum for Major Quality Improvement Projects

The project will support the creation of standardized work for all future Lean projects at the health center and also complete a Lean project using a new curriculum. A major focus of the project will be to building the curriculum strategies to successfully spread Lean Projects to all sites in the organization. The clinical leadership has already identified major quality

improvement projects for the future in which this newly developed curriculum could be used by staff at all levels within the organization.

Jennifer Scott, MD

The Dimock Center

Women and Resiliency Initiative

The Women and Resiliency Initiative, through qualitative and quantitative research, will aim to 1) understand the resilience factors among women seeking health services, 2) explore how individual resilience's factors impact health decision making and health outcomes and 3) determined how the model of health care delivery in a CHC supports resiliency and how programs and services could help to promote and strengthen women's resilience factors.

Olga De La Calle, MD

Upham's Corner Health Center

Special Project in Dermatology at UCHC

The grant will support the development of a structured dermatology clinic at UPHC. During one clinical session/week, the lead clinician's time will be dedicated to Dermatology, including consultations and procedures. The clinician will also continue her shadowing of a Dermatologist at Boston teach hospitals so that she can acquire additional skills and knowledge in dermatology.

2012 Grant Recipients

Marie Meckel, PA

Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center

Q2A – Cue to Action!!

This project, Cue to Action or “Q2A” will expand on the modality of Shared Medical Appointments (SMA), while specifically targeting patients who are on an anti-hypertension regiment to help improve life style changes. This project will help these patients by giving them an outlet to share their personal stories as well as work on their self-empowerment to help them manage their chronic disease.

Colleen Anderson, DDS

Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

Quality Improvement in Oral Health for Homeless Patients Fellowship

This is a mini fellowship in community health management will have a focus on dental care for homeless individuals and will help increase the clinician’s knowledge of multiple areas of clinic management such as staffing, funding, patient scheduling and retention.

Joseph Panerio-Langer, MD

Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Adult Primary Care Practice Redesign Initiative

The project will redesign the adult medicine department by forming three smaller teams with leader that will each report up to the medical director regarding workflow, policy concerns and patient issues.

Kathleen Floyd, FNP

Community Health Programs, Inc.

CHP on Wheels: Connecting Rural Residents to Health Care

The Program will bring together all facets of the organization to plan and launch a mobile medical unit that will provide care to underserved residents in rural areas of Berkshire County.

Julie Crosson, MD

Dorchester House Multi-Service Center

Nurse Practitioner Professional Development Curriculum Program (NPPDCP)

The project will develop a professional development curriculum for nurse practitioners. The curriculum will help Dorchester House build a team of NPs that will help support primary care as well as create greater continuity of care for their patients.

Frank Schiano, DMD

Fenway Community Health Center

Improving Oral Health Outcomes for LGBT and HIV Populations

A mini fellowship to provide increased training to help improve the lead clinician's ability to manage additional staff and dental residents and support the lead clinician's certificate from the Pathway's Program, funded by HRSA.

Evan Teplow, MD

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Healthy Weight Clinic Expansion Project

The project entails expanding and rolling out the Healthy Weight Clinic (HWC); improving the infrastructure of the organizational approach and PCMH; and to incorporate obesity management to all 4 of GLFHC's clinical sites.

Alison Marshall, RN, MSN, FNP-C

South Boston Community Health Center

SBCHC Medical Home Pilot Project

Support SBCHC in developing a working medical home. The lead clinician will provide staff training and enact quality improvement measures of the course of the grant cycle to encompass all of SBCHC's needs.

Liliana Rosselli-Risal, MD

Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center

Comunidad en Accion

Promote the health of the SJPCHC Latino population in the areas of fitness, nutrition and healthy weight.

2011 Grant Recipients

Soukania Adolphe, MD

Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center

Harvard Street Community Health Collaborative & Child Obesity

Lead Harvard Street Community Health Collaborative, a group of community organizations led by HSNHC to develop seamless connections between HSNHC's clinical practices and other organizations that touch community residents' lives. The initiative will also include a review and revision of all pediatric clinical protocols to improve prevention and treatment of child obesity with an emphasis on family education and empowerment.

Holly Alexandre, MD

SSTAR Family Health Center

Adolescent Female Curriculum for Healthy Living

Train volunteers in mentoring girls age 8 - 13 to participate in a program that includes physical activities, healthy eating choices and tools to inspire self-respect. The program would incorporate successful programs such as "Girls on the Run Program" in addition to a newly developed core curriculum to educate girls on prevention of at risk activities, substance/alcohol abuse, eating disorders, early onset sexual activity, sedentary lifestyle and depression.

Marjorie Crabtree, MSN, NP

Mid Upper Cape Community Health Center

Education on Use of Digital Home Monitoring Blood Pressure Cuffs

The project aims to give providers more time to meet with patients with uncontrolled hypertension and learn from the patient (and family) their understanding of hypertension, and propose various self-management methods including the use of a digital home monitoring blood pressure cuff.

Janemarie Dolan, MD

Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Childhood Obesity Program

Create a new 12-week childhood obesity program. The program will include initial individual assessment by a pediatrician and nutritionist, weekly small group sessions with a nutritionist, community health worker and social worker; and a 4-week parent education course.

Eliza Jones, MD

Whittier Street Health Center

Program for Families of Children with Special Health Care Needs

Research and pilot a project which utilizes the Intensive Family Therapy (IFT) program of providing wrap around support to families in crisis and unable to adequately handle the demands of caring for a child with special health care needs.

Peter Loewinthan, MD

Dorchester House Multi-Service Center

Nicaraguan Medical Experience

Lead a group of 6 physicians to Superemos in Nicaragua to provide screens, preventive care, and episodic care to more than 100 patients/day in Esteli and surrounding areas.

Cara Marshall, MD

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Rx for Social Health

Create tool designed to expand the reach of the patient-centered medical home far beyond the clinical walls. Integrated into the new electronic medical record, the tool will allow physicians to directly connect patients with community based resources and organizations that are already working to improve the social and physical environment in which the patients live, grow up, and work.

Jonathan Pincus, MD

Codman Square Health Center

Haiti CHC and Kreyol Immersion

Travel to Haiti to work at a community health center and an HIV treatment site while participating in Haitian Kreyol immersion classes.

Melissa Rathmell, MD

Family Health Center of Worcester

Complementary Medicine Training

Undertake advanced study of alternative therapies/modalities, while continuing clinical practice, to offer a higher level of integrative treatment to all patients at FHCW and to share the training with colleagues at the health center.

Lauren Schroder, MSN, NP

Neponset Health Center

OB/GYN Fellowship

Fellowship training in prenatal, OB care and GYN procedures to expand the Family Medicine department's ability to improve its focus on patient centered care.

Nandini Sengupta, MD, MPH

Dimock Community Health Center

Integration of Pediatric Services with Health Leads

Create a broad based model of comprehensive care which integrates the work of the pediatricians, the clinic social worker and Health Leads staff coordinator and Health Leads volunteers so that families' social, behavioral and school related needs are given the same degree of attention that their medical needs currently receive.

Louis Strauss, MD

Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center

Shared Medical Appointments Program

Expand the proven Shared Medical Appointments (SMA) modality to other providers within Baystate Mason Square Neighborhood Health Center, and its sister sites, Baystate High Street Health Center, and Baystate Brightwood Health Center/Centro de Salud.

2010 Grant Recipients

Bonnie Cohen, MD

Union Square Family Health

HealthLift

Health Learning Initiatives for Teens (HealthLIFT) is an integrated health literacy education program targeting staff at Union Square Family Health, high school students in vocational training for health careers, and patients.

Edward R. Levy, MD, MPH

Upham's Corner Health Center

Comprehensive Management of ADHD

Support experienced physician in developing expertise in the comprehensive management of ADHD and co-morbid conditions as a combined "Mini-Fellowship/Quality Improvement Project." Through this training, the physician will lead the extension of best practices in the care of these children to the entire health center.

Julita Mir, MD

Dorchester House Multi-Service Center

Hepatitis Clinic

Expand onsite specialty care for patients with Hepatitis B and C by sending a physician to train in an academic gastroenterology program to increase her knowledge in these areas. The ultimate goal is to establish a Hepatitis Clinic onsite.

Christina Nelson, MD

Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center

Improve Clinical Outcomes Through CHIA

Develop a quality improvement process to improve clinical outcomes captured through CHIA. The project will include an assessment of factors impacting health outcomes, the development and implementation of an intervention plan to improve those outcomes, and the establishment of a framework to continue the Quality Improvement process for other clinical indicators.

Anna Rabkina, MD

Lynn Community Health Center

Training for Midlevel Management

Enhance and optimize the current administrative system by creating a training model for the mid-level management for the satellite office and medical teams. The goal is to have the teams obtain responsibility for the overall management of their departments, and collaborate with the senior management team

Lara Setti, MD, MPH et. al.

Community Health Programs Health Center

Teen Family Planning Clinic

Establish a Teen Family Planning Clinic to provide a safe, private environment for the delivery of desperately needed family planning and related health services to teens in southern Berkshire County. The goals are to decrease the rate of pregnancy and STI in the population and play an essential role in the coordination of care and treatment for those teens who find themselves pregnant or infected.

2009 Grant Recipients

Alison May, MD et. al.

Boston HealthCare for the Homeless Program

Web-based Training Curriculum for Medical Learners

Six BHCHP physicians will work together to design, write, and implement an evidence-driven, web-based curriculum. This resource will help train medical learners to 1) appreciate the complex role that illness can play in the cause, maintenance, and complication of homelessness; 2) recognize and treat illnesses unique to or more prevalent in homeless populations; and 3) adopt creative strategies for the management of these acute and chronic illnesses. The curriculum will serve as a virtual learning guide for learners on elective clinical rotations with BHCHP. The development of a homeless health care curriculum has been a longstanding goal of the BHCHP medical staff, since most view teaching as one of the most rewarding aspects of their work. However, time and resource constraints have prevented realization of this goal. Protected time free from clinical and administrative responsibilities will be critical to ensuring the project's success.

Holly J. Oh, MD

The Dimock Center

Dimock Oral Health Initiative

The project aims to promote the dental home concept, by utilizing the pediatric primary care setting to promote oral health education to families, adequately screen infants and young children at high risk for developing dental caries, provide preventive fluoride varnish treatments in the medical setting to help offset the risk of developing caries, and facilitate the access to a pediatric dental services by building in conduits for referral.

Lana Sargent, FNP-c, GNP-BC

Family Health Center of Worcester

Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Program

The project will focus on developing a Family Nurse Practitioner Residency Program to provide clinical training and extensive mentoring for 2-4 FNPs annually, increase the quality of care for the special populations served at the CHC, and expand the pool of primary care practitioners who are committed to working in a community setting. The goals of the project are to establish a FNP Residency through which nurse practitioners are supported to remain in primary care at Community Health Centers; to learn from the experience of the pilot and develop a model to promote the replication of the residency programs within CHCs across the state to address the shortage of primary care providers; and to change the outdated education model of the FNP to meet the expanding role of the FNP as a PCP.