MHHC WELCOMES NEW HIRES

MHHC'S STAFF NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017 EDITION

ADVOCACY DAY 2017

DR. BOOKHARDT GETS HONORED
At the HARLEM FINE ARTS SHOW

NEW Car Service
Available Now for MHHC

IMPACT AWARDS GALA Save The Date

#wearemorrisheights
The Planning, Development and External Affairs department is pleased to announce the formal award of $1 Million to construct (4) dental operatories at Vanguard Health Center (233rd St.). The New York State capital assistance program (NYS CAP) grant is awarded by Speaker of the New York State Assemblyman, Hon. Carl Heastie, 83rd Assembly District where Vanguard is located. This monetary support of $1M for this project was requested by the MHHC Advocacy Team during the 2016 Advocacy Day visits to Legislators in Albany. Many thanks to the MHHC Board of Directors, the Governance Affairs Committee, and the 2016 Advocacy Team. The next few pages will highlight Advocacy Day 2017 in Albany and what our “asks” were...
This year, MHHC took one of its largest groups of advocates in recent years to the state capital that consisted of 16 staff members, two (2) board members and two (2) patients—all wearing blue, MHHC-branded track jackets. Joined by over 1,000 employees of community health centers state-wide, all advocates in attendance shared three common talking points or “asks” regardless of affiliation, including:

1. Educate their legislators on the overarching mission of community health centers to meet with state legislators in the capital to:
   - Address the fiscal issues facing health centers
   - Convey the impact of policies and regulations that may threaten the community health center care-delivery model.

On Monday, March 6, 2017, staff, patients and board members from Morris Heights Health Center (MHHC) traveled to Albany, NY to participate in the 2017 Community Health Center Grassroots Advocacy Day, held at Empire State Plaza. The purpose of Advocacy Day is to provide an opportunity for community health centers to meet with state legislators in the capital to:

1. INCREASING INDIGENT CARE FUNDING BY $20 MILLION –
   Indigent Care Funding provides money to Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and other safety net providers to help cover overall cost of caring for uninsured patients.

2. ALLOCATING A MINIMUM OF $125 MILLION OF THE HEALTH CARE FACILITY TRANSFORMATION FUND TO COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS –
   The Executive State Budget includes $500 million for capital funding through a Healthcare Facility Transformation Fund, of which only 6%, or $30 million, is set aside for FQHCs with the rest going to hospital systems.

3. UNBUNDLING AND RESTORING FUNDING FOR SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS (SBHCS) TO $21 MILLION –
   The new Executive Budget proposal consolidates funding lines for 39 different programs, including SBHCS, into four competitive pools and cuts the funding for each pool by 20%. This proposal puts $21 million in non-Medicaid funding for SBHCS at risk.

The MHHC advocacy group met with eleven (11) state legislators (or their staff) with offices in districts where MHHC operates at least one site. In addition to the talking points above, MHHC had an organization-specific funding agenda that was discussed in meetings from which the group was able to secure verbal funding commitments from the following legislators:

$1 MILLION ASK TO NYS ASSEMBLYWOMAN LATOYA JOYNER
This amount was requested as capital funding for construction of the basement of MHHC’s Bronx Medical and Wellness Center. We are working with Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner in hopes that she can support this ask.
NYS Senator Jamaal Bailey offered his assistance with securing the $240K previously granted to MHHC by Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson for the installation of two (2) dental operatories at Harry S. Truman High School.

$300,000 FROM NYS ASSEMBLYMAN VICTOR PICHARDO
This amount is additional funding needed for renovations proposed for MHHC's Women’s Health Pavilion. Assemblyman Pichardo has previously given the organization a total of $500K in 2015 and 2016.

FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM NYS SENATOR JOSE M. SERRANO
Mr. Serrano did not express a specific dollar amount; however, he pledged his commitment to helping MHHC complete construction to the basement of the Bronx Medical and Wellness Center.

Up next, the MHHC advocacy team will head to Washington, DC to the 2017 Health Center Policy and Issues Conference to speak with US congressional representatives on Capitol Hill—advocating for the preservation of expanded Medicaid funding and articulating the important role of FQHCs around the country.
Join the Community Healthcare Association of New York’s (CHCANYS) Action Network and stay informed about important developments in the health center community.

**AS AN ADVOCATE HERE’S WHAT YOU’LL GET**

- Important Policy Changes and Action Alerts from both CHCANYS and the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) as well as immediate (In-person) contact with your Representatives.
- VISIT: HTTP://WWW.CHCANYS.ORG/
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- VISIT: HTTP://WWW.CHCANYS.ORG/
- Join the National Association of Community Health Centers’ (NACHC) Campaign for America’s Health Centers and fight real threats to the future of health centers.

**DID YOU KNOW? YOUR AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS AT RISK!**

Congress is already considering proposals to reduce the expansion of Health Centers and undermine Insurance companies including, Medicaid - potentially reducing your ability to receive affordable care.

- Fight for your right for affordable healthcare!
- VISIT: HTTP://WWW.NACHC.ORG/

For more information, please contact our MHHC Advocate, Claudette Phipps at ext. 2312

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**TAKE ACTION NOW!**

We would like to congratulate Dr. Lois Bookhardt, MHHC’s Interim President and CEO, who was honored by the Harlem Fine Arts Show (HFAS) for her contributions as an “African-American in Medicine” on Thursday, February 16, 2017. The event, hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at the Historic Riverside Church in Harlem, highlighted the remarkable innovations, achievements and advancement of Blacks in the healthcare field.

**MHHC HIGHLIGHTS**

**HARLEM FINE ARTS SHOW**

**HONORS DR. BOOKHARDT**

Morris Heights Health Center has been awarded funds from Gilead Sciences’ FOCUS Program (Frontlines of Communities in the United States). The award totaling $240,870 will support making routine HIV, HCV (Hepatitis C), and HBV (Hepatitis B) screening a standard of care for appropriate patient populations, reduce the number of undiagnosed individuals, decrease the number of those who are diagnosed late and ensure strong linkage to care and treatment.

Experts believe that routine screening is essential to slowing and ultimately ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States by helping to identify undiagnosed infection, one of the major drivers of the disease. Nearly one in six HIV-positive Americans, approximately 180,900 people, do not know that he or she is infected. HCV (Hepatitis C) affects approximately 3.2 million Americans and is now responsible for more U.S. deaths each year than HIV. Many people with HCV do not have obvious symptoms for many years and it is estimated that half of Americans with HCV do not know that they are infected, which keeps them from getting care and treatment. HCV is a blood borne virus, and can be spread through blood-to-blood contact, including injection drug use. We congratulate MHHC’s CARE Services team, led by our HIV Clinical Director—Dr. Susan Amenechi-Enahoro—who will manage this important initiative.

**MHHC RECEIVES AWARD TO EXPAND HIV, HCV AND HBV SCREENING**

**DISTRICT 10 UPDATE**

**Join the National Association of Community Health Centers’ (NACHC) Campaign for America’s Health Centers and fight real threats to the future of health centers.**

**DID YOU KNOW? YOUR AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS AT RISK!**

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For more information, please contact our MHHC Advocate, Claudette Phipps at ext. 2312
In an effort to reduce costs, improve efficiencies, and to provide an effective means of transportation for staff and patients that need to use a car service, Morris Heights Health Service has engaged the services of Superclass to transport its employees and patients throughout the Bronx and Manhattan north of 157th Street. All employees are expected to use this service when they travel on behalf of MHHC. As we launch this service for all employees, please remember the following:

Super Class has assigned MHHC a dedicated telephone number for calls requesting service. We asking staff to to request the car service 30 minutes in advance. If you have a specific appointment, please request within 24 hours. There will also be a designated representative available during business hours, Monday through Saturday, to facilitate any concerns or questions that arise concerning Super Class’ services for MHHC. Please call (347) 226-4263 or (718) 365-6691 to request a shuttle.

For more information and to request a voucher, please contact your supervisor.
MHHC IN THE COMMUNITY

1ST ANNUAL OPEN MIC NIGHT

The Marketing team hosted their first annual "Open Mic Night" at our Walton and Vanguard sites in February, in celebration of Black History Month. Guns down, Lives Up (GDLU), a call to action to break the cycle of violence and empower youth to fulfill their potential by leading safer, healthier lives, partnered with us and attended both sites. We had various acts of singing, rapping, and spoken word poetry from patients and staff! Many thanks to GDLU and UnitedHealthcare for their support.

AMADOU DIALLO COMMEMORATION AT BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bronx community college hosted the Amadou Youth Commemoration “Mind, Spirit, and Body Wellness” on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Health Education Program Manager Vjolca Hetemi presented a workshop on “Healthy Eating.”

GHANA’S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION WITH COUNCILMEMBER VANESSA GIBSON

The office of New York City Council Member, Vanessa L. Gibson celebrated Ghana’s 60th year of Independence on Thursday, March 9th 2017 at City Hall Chambers. Community Liaisons Taibat Ibrahim & Samira Sako along with MHHC Board member Thomasina Bushy joined the historic event to celebrate the tremendous contributions Ghanaians have made.

WOMEN’S “HERSTORY” EVENT WITH SENATOR JAMAAL BAILEY

On Saturday, March 18th, MHHC celebrated Women’s Herstory event with Senator Jamaal Bailey at the Dotes Recreation Center in Mount Vernon. Members from the Marketing team, IPA Navigator Program & Enrollment and a Medical Assistant provided free health screenings and information on the services we offer at Vanguard Health Center.

HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNUAL WELLNESS FESTIVAL (3/16)

Hostos Community College held their annual wellness festival on Thursday, March 16th to promote healthy living in the state’s unhealthiest county. The Marketing team, Family Planning, and YAAHU (Young Adult Adolescent Health Unit) supported this event by providing Students with health education, condoms and incentives.

LGBTQ YOUTH SUMMIT (3/18)

The second annual LGBTQ Youth Summit was held at the Bronx Academy of Letters on Saturday, March 18th. The summit included fun interactive activities for families and workshops aimed at increasing mental health resources. Huge shout out to Family Planning, YAAHU, and the Marketing team for attending this event and providing health education to all attendees.
Congratulations,
To our former Summer Intern.

It is our deepest pleasure to announce that Ms. Cynthia Louis-Juste—a 2016 Summer intern with MHHC through Columbia University’s Summer Public Health Scholars Program (SPHSP)—has been accepted to the University of Albany and New York University to pursue her Master’s in Public Health. She has yet to decide which one she’ll attend this fall. MHHC has been a host site for Public Health Scholars for the past 4 years and we are proud to hear of the advancement of the young lives we help to develop.

Cynthia, originally from Spring Valley, NY, is a developing public health professional who graduated Magna Cum Laude from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, with a bachelor’s degree in public health. During her summer with MHHC Cynthia demonstrated tremendous drive and passion for helping others. She assisted the marketing and outreach team with various tasks, including: coordinating community outreach events and activities; developing neighborhood profiles for Bronx communities we serve; planning and executing a large-scale community district needs assessment; distributing MHHC marketing collaterals; and, driving brand awareness of the organization through public engagement.

She is currently a candidate for the Corris Boyd Scholarship Award, named in honor of a public health leader who dedicated his life to healthcare excellence and improving the lives of those most in need.

Join us in wishing her the best of luck on her new journey into graduate studies.

Cynthia Louis-Juste

Care Coordination is a mechanism through which teams of health care professionals work together to ensure that their patients’ health needs are being met and that the right care is being delivered in the right place, at the right time, and by the right person. Our Care Coordination program involves coordinating with all of the different service providers necessary—including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, behavioral health specialists, insurance plans, community-based organizations, and more—to facilitate the patient’s interactions with the health care system.

The goal of care coordination is shown in the middle of the diagram. The circles represent some of the possible participants, settings, and information important to care pathways and workflow. The blue rings that connects the colored circles is care coordination—namely, anything that bridges gaps (white spaces) along the care pathway. For a given patient at a given point in time, the bridges or rings need to form across the applicable circles, and through any gaps within a given circle, to deliver coordinated care.

For more information on care coordination please contact Alexandra Massey at ext. 2498.

DID YOU KNOW?
WE HAVE A CARE COORDINATION PROGRAM!

WHAT IS THE CARE COORDINATION PROGRAM?

The CARE COORDINATOR SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Engaging the patient (and his or her caregiver, if appropriate) in the development of a customized care plan that reflects his or her health care needs and priorities.
- Ensuring that the patient and his or her caregiver understand their role outlined in the care plan and feel prepared to fulfill their responsibilities.
- Identifying ALL of the barriers—that affect the patient’s ability to adhere to treatments or maintain their health.
- Assisting the patient in navigating the winding network of providers and often cumbersome insurance claims processes.
- Ensuring the patient’s electronic health record appropriately reflects the most up-to-date information and is easily accessible to all care team members, including the patient.
- Following up with the patient periodically to ensure their needs are being met and that their circumstances and priorities have not changed.

CARE COORDINATION PROGRAM DIAGRAM
DSRIP (Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program) is the main mechanism by which New York State will implement the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) Waiver Amendment. DSRIP’s purpose is to fundamentally restructure the health care delivery system by reinvesting in the Medicaid program, with the primary goal of reducing avoidable hospital use by 25% over 5 years through collaboration between hospitals and non-hospital care providers. The NY State DSRIP program was implemented in 2015.

MHHC is a member of the DSRIP group – Bronx Partners for Healthy Communities (BPHC) which is led by St. Barnabas Hospital. MHHC has benefitted from its DSRIP membership with the addition of new job positions, including Medical Office Assistants, Care Managers and Care Coordinators. The BPHC provides ongoing training to staff who transfer into those new roles.

Cultural Competency Training has begun for MHHC employees to help our staff to “connect with their cultural strengths, validate and celebrate their identities and connect to supportive cultural communities” – Lisa Martin, Ph.D. Frontline staff have begun attending all-day Cultural Competency Training on Saturdays. Managers and Supervisors will attend three hour sessions to understand better how to manage their staff to improve cross cultural communication and provide culturally affirming care to our patients.

$AVING NOW FOR YOUR FUTURE

During the monthly new hire orientation, employees can learn about and enroll in personal savings plans through automatic payroll deductions. Choices include:

- MCU – Municipal Credit Union - direct savings
- 403(b) Savings Plan - pre-tax payroll deductions to investments at AXA Equitable or Oppenheimer Funds.

HOW TO SECURE YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE TODAY

April new hire orientation will take place on Monday April 17th. Presentations by representatives from MCU, AXA and Oppenheimer will be at 85 W Burnside at 11:30 am. If you wish to attend, or make contact with any of the representatives, you should reach out to anyone on the HR Team.
NEW HIRES
JANUARY 2017

ADRIANA REYES
Program Manager
Family Planning

BELKIS RODRIGUEZ
Breast Feeding Peer Counselor
WIC

CATALINA MALDONADO
Medical Office Assistant
Patient Care Services

MARIELLY SANTOS
School Health Assistant
School Health

MARTHA ROMERO
Social Worker
Behavioral Health

MICHAEL KIM
Nurse Practitioner
Family Medicine

ELEANOR LOPEZ
Call Center Manager
Operations

ERIN MARKS
Business Associate
Operations

HEIDI DE LA CRUZ MARTINEZ
Business Associate
Operations

MONIQUE AUSTIN
Registered Nurse
Women’s Health

SHYDU KATO
Social Worker
School Health

VANVOOREN REID
Medical Office Assistant
Patient Care Services

KALEENA JEAN-PIERRE
Dietitian/Nutritionist
Nutrition

KAREN SAMBOY
Health Educator
Health Education

KIMBERLY MENDEZ
Dental Assistant
Dental

ZABON NAHAR
WIC Program Associate
WIC

MARIANNE BUSTAMANTE
Program Manager
Family Planning

ZOEY CRUZ
Health Educator
Health Education

VANESSA CASH
Medical Office Assistant
Patient Care Services

JANUARY 2017
NEW HIRES

MONIQUE AUSTIN
Registered Nurse
Women’s Health

SHYDU KATO
Social Worker
School Health

VANVOOREN REID
Medical Office Assistant
Patient Care Services

MARIANNE BUSTAMANTE
Program Manager
Family Planning

ZOEY CRUZ
Health Educator
Health Education

VANESSA CASH
Medical Office Assistant
Patient Care Services
NEW HIRES
FEBRUARY 2017

DANILY VENTURA
Family Support Worker
Healthy Families

DR. ISAAC BAMPOE
Psychiatrist
Behavioral Health

JULIUS RICHARDSON
Medical Assistant
Patient Care Services

LAURA ABREU
Social Worker
School Health

MELISSA MENDEZ
Call Center Rep
Call Center

NEW HIRES
MARCH 2017

AXEL HOYOS
Call Center Rep
Call Center - Operations

CARMEN ALIENDE
Referral Clerk
Referrals - Operations

LUZ COTTO
Medical Office Assistant
Patient Care Services

NIURKA TAVAREZ
Call Center Rep
Call Center

TAYA VILMAR
Licensed Practical Nurse
Patient Care Service

JOVANNA VALENTINE
Medical Assistant
Patient Care Services

VALLENA BRINDISI
Social Worker
School Health
Morris Heights Health Center and its targeted communities are well aware of the devastating impact of oral health disparities on its target population’s general health. The primary goal is to increase access to oral health care for both adults and children and to improve patient outcomes through prevention education and preventative services including, but not limited to, sealant placement. The Dental Care department has been offering services at Morris Heights Health Center for over 35 years. We are proud to have them in the spotlight to acknowledge their great work. With over 30 staff members, the dental care department offers the following services at 3 MHHC locations.

**SERVICES:**
- Check-Ups
- Cleaning and Gum Treatments
- Preventive
- Fluoride Treatments
- Preventive Sealants
- Bonding (Tooth Colored Fillings)
- Fillings
- Crowns
- Extractions
- Complete Dentures
- Root Canal Treatment

**LOCATIONS & HOURS OF OPERATIONS:**

- **MHHC AT WALTON AVENUE**
  25 E. 183rd Street
  Bronx, New York, 10453
  Monday 8:00am - 5:00pm
  Tuesday 8:00am - 5:00pm
  Wednesday 8:00am - 5:00pm
  Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm
  Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

- **MHHC AT ST. ANN’S**
  625 E. 137th Street
  Bronx, New York, 10454
  Monday 8:00am - 5:00pm
  Tuesday 8:00am - 5:00pm
  Wednesday 8:00am - 5:00pm
  Thursday 7:00am - 5:00pm
  Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm

- **MHHC at Burnside**
  85 W. Burnside Avenue
  Bronx, New York, 10453
  Monday 8:00am - 5:00pm
  Tuesday 7:00am - 5:00pm
  Wednesday 7:00am - 7:00pm
  Thursday 7:00am - 5:00pm
  Friday 9:30am - 5:00pm
THANK YOU FOR READING

Stay Tuned For the Next Issue

GRAND OPENING: BRONX MEDICAL & WELLNESS CENTER

BRONX WEEK CELEBRATION

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: GRAF PROGRAM

MEN’S HEALTH PROGRAM LAUNCH

Have a story you want to feature in the next issue?
Contact Ana Gonzalez at ext. 2543

This issue has been brought to you by The Development, Planning and External Affairs Department