

CEO Memo – August

The end of summer is fast approaching, and we at Whittier Street Health Center look forward to a fall season filled with our new community health care innovations, cross-sector partnerships, and of course, serving even more Boston residents through our many health and wellness programs. But first, here are some highlights from what has been a very bright summer at Whittier and in our community:

Leadership Recognition:

On June 9, the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network (MNN) held its annual Nonprofit Excellence Awards at the State House. The awards underline the most innovative, creative, and effective nonprofit work being done throughout the Commonwealth. I was one of the four finalists for the Excellence in Leadership category, which honors the passion and impact of local leaders in the nonprofit sector. I am grateful to MNN for the honor and support their mission of strengthening nonprofits like Whittier.

The Men’s Health Summit



Men’s Health Champions from left to right: Dr. Marc Garnick, Dr. Luc Joseph, Richard Taylor, Joe Nolan, Whittier President and CEO Frederica M. Williams, Mayor Marty Walsh, Bill Brett, Dr. Paul Mendis, and keynote speaker Billy Blanks, Jr.

On June 28, Whittier held its annual Men’s Health Summit, an event dedicated to promoting men’s health and activating boys and men to take ownership of their health and wellness. This year’s theme was “Celebrating the Great Things Our Boys and Men Bring to Our Lives” and kicked off with the awards ceremony for Men’s Health Champions, which included Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and distinguished Bostonians from various fields who have been exemplary leaders in health and wellness. The summit also provided free health screenings, a panel discussion moderated by keynote speaker Billy Blanks, Jr., and an Xbox tournament for youth.

CEO Memo – August

The event ended with a powerful performance by Sharon Catherine Blanks and an energetic, fun-focused workout led by Billy and Sharon Catherine.

Grant Awards:

Whittier was selected as a partner in the COVDIEN CARES grant program, which supports organizations that increase access to quality, affordable healthcare. We will receive \$50,000 to support our *Healthy Weight Program*, which uses clinical interventions and wellness activities to help children and youth (and their siblings) make fitness- and nutrition-related lifestyle changes that will positively impact their health and growth.

We are one of 43 Massachusetts and Rhode Island-based organizations to receive funding from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, primarily for initiatives that promote chronic disease self-management and prevention, exercise and nutrition, and fall prevention. The Tufts grant will support our *Geriatric Chronic Disease Case Management Program*, which helps bridge the gap between limited access to resources to compassionate, comprehensive health care and social services so the elderly in our community can live healthier lives.

Through its Infrastructure and Capacity Building (ICB) program, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has awarded over \$200,000 in funding for Whittier's Boston Health Equity Program (BHEP), our new primary care delivery model that combines care coordination, community outreach, and wellness support. The grant will allow us to build upon our strengths as a Patient-Centered Medical Home and move toward the goals of BHEP, our more integrated model of care.

New Opportunities:

Whittier is one of 22 health centers across the country that qualifies for a new funding opportunity from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The three-year, multi-agency project is called *Partnerships for Care: Health Departments and Health Centers Collaborating to Improve HIV Health Outcomes*, and it will enable health centers to expand the provision of HIV prevention, testing, care, and treatment services, especially among racial/ethnic minorities.

Events:

Back to School BBQ (August 22, 2014, 2pm-6pm): All families are invited to our annual Back-to-School Barbecue, where we provide free backpacks and other school essentials, food and drinks, a talent show, music, games, prizes, and more! (The event will take place on August 28 in case of rain.)

CEO Memo – August



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration (October 9, 2014, 5pm-7:30pm):

Please join us for our annual celebration of Latin American cultures and their influence in our Boston communities! The evening's keynote speaker will be Dr. Marisela Marrero, an attending physician at North Shore Medical Center who has been recognized as one of the most influential Latina women in Massachusetts by the Puerto Rican Association in Massachusetts.



Gospel Concert (November 22, 2014, 7pm-9pm): Save the date for Whittier's 11th annual *Gospel Concert: Saving the Health of the Community*, at the Berklee Performance Center! It will be an evening of inspirational music by talented groups from across New England. This year, we are excited to honor Governor Deval Patrick for his indelible impact on our community and future generations through his fearless leadership. We will also be honoring Ms. Debra Miller, our Board of Directors chair and VP of the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, for her strong and

continued commitment to the health and well-being of New England residents. More details will be available in the upcoming months.

Thank you again for your support for Whittier Street Health Center as we champion equitable access to high quality health care and wellness programs. Please visit our website (www.wshc.org) and Facebook and Twitter pages for more about our services and community-based initiatives.