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Dear friends,

Summer flew by -- but it was very nice seeing so many of you out in our communities and at CHA events! I wanted to take a moment to update everyone that in June CHA's Board of Trustees voted to adopt our Healthy Somerville 2022 plan, a strategy to meet the evolving health needs of the community. The plan includes increased primary care access and a proposed new health center in Union Square, the conversion of the Somerville Hospital Emergency Department into an urgent care center, renovation of the Central Street Care Center, a new pain management center at the Somerville Hospital and a Teen Health Center at the new Somerville High School . We are committed to continued collaboration with the City of Somerville and all our surrounding communities to support a wellness agenda and look forward to hearing from all of you on how we can best implement these changes. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time to discuss this plan further or to provide input -- we greatly appreciate your feedback and commitment to CHA and the patients and communities we serve!

Related to our wellness plan, CHA has also been working to enhance patient safety and recently supported efforts by our state legislators for this purpose. Just last week, our Interim CEO **Assaad Sayah** , MD, joined Peter DeMarco, the husband of Laura Levis, and State Representative Christine Barber and State Senator Pat Jehlen at a State House hearing regarding their [bill](#) commonly known as "Laura's Law" and entitled " An Act Ensuring Safe Patient Access to Emergency Care." Dr. Sayah testified and shared the work that our staff and providers have accomplished over the past three years, primarily related to the need for improved facilities and wayfinding, which are one piece of a complex puzzle to promote emergency care access at hospitals.

At CHA, we are committed to ongoing improvement and ensuring that all patients get the best possible care. We remain a mission-driven institution that welcomes and cares for everyone, and we cannot thank you enough for your continued collaboration and support. Have a wonderful autumn and we look forward to seeing you!

Warm Regards,

Mary

Mary Cassesso
President, CHA Foundation & Chief Community Officer

Staff Recognition



David Stewart, PhD, chief of psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at

CHA, was promoted to associate professor at Harvard Medical School.



Yamini Saravanam, MD, received the [Excellence in Clinical Instruction Award](#)

at Harvard Medical School's Class Day Ceremony. The award is from HMS graduates and celebrates Dr. Saravanam's support of their educational endeavors.



Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer **Lynette Alberti, MS, RN, NEA-BC**,

received the Elaine K. Sherwood Award from the Organization of NurseLeaders (ONL).



Rebekah Rollston, MD, MPH, part of the Tufts University Family Medicine Residency at



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CHA, was honored with the 2019 Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

See, Test & Treat - October 26, 2019



CHA was selected for the second year by the College of American Pathologists Foundation to offer See, Test & Treat. It will be held on October 26, 2019 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at CHA Cambridge Hospital. The day is designed for uninsured or underinsured people to gain access to life-saving screenings. These include a pelvic exam, clinical breast exam, Pap test, HPV test and a screening mammogram. Same-day results will be provided for most screenings in addition to a health fair, activities for children, healthy snacks and educational materials. If you would like to be a part of this important effort to provide care to people who otherwise can't access it, please contact [Sarah Primeau](#) ,

community relations project manager.

Channel 5/WCVB-TV Highlights Revere Mobile Market

CHA, in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, Tufts Health Plan and Good Measures, hosted Mobile Markets in Revere on July 13, August 3 and September 8. Channel 5, Boston's local ABC TV affiliate, showcased the market in a [segment on childhood hunger](#) that featured an interview with Revere Care Center physician **Christopher Simons**, MD.



CHA in the News



[CNN](#) highlighted a [JAMA Pediatrics study](#) led by **Leah Zallman**, MD, MPH, primary

care physician and director of research at the Institute for Community Health, which asserts that millions of children could lose health and nutrition benefits because of the public charge rule.



The [Harvard Gazette](#) conducted an extensive Q&A with **Pieter Cohen**, MD, a leading

expert on supplements and a physician at Somerville Hospital Primary Care, on the potential risks of marijuana and related products including CBD.



Zev Schuman-Olivier, MD, medical director of addictions, shared his insight for a [Boston Globe](#)

[series](#) on addiction and recovery.



[NPR](#) showcased a [JAMA Internal Medicine study](#) from **Laura Hawks**, MD, a

general medicine research fellow, which found that one in 16 U.S. girls and women, first-time sexual encounters involved some type of force or coercion.



[NBC News](#) posted a commentary from psychiatrist **Wes Boyd** , MD, PhD, on the challenges

patients face to gain access to mental health care, including for those who have health

Golf Invitational Raises \$137,000 to Benefit Patients

CHA held its 16th annual Golf Invitational on September 16 and raised more than \$137K to support CHA and its community health mission. Proceeds from the event will benefit Patient Experience of Care initiatives at CHA's Cambridge, Somerville and Everett Hospitals.



CHA Joins Mass. Attorney General to Protect the ACA

On July 9, CHA joined **Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey**, advocates, patients and other providers to publicly oppose a lawsuit calling for the dismantling of the Affordable Care Act. **Laura Sullivan, MD**, chief of family medicine and primary care physician at CHA Malden Family Medicine Center, represented CHA with compelling remarks at a press conference outside of the Moakley Courthouse in Boston.



insurance.



[Shelterforce](#) highlighted the success of the Chelsea Hub, an innovative partnership including CHA that acts as a crisis intervention service for members of the community facing addiction, homelessness, mental health challenges and other obstacles. **Melisa Lai Becker, MD** and **Rebecca Sweeney** spoke about the benefits of the Chelsea Hub and the recovery coaches who support it.



[Reuters](#) highlighted research led by pediatrician **John Adams, MD**, which found that young people with chronic physical conditions such as asthma or diabetes are more likely to be at risk for later mental health conditions.



Pulmonary specialist **Adam Gaffney, MD**, and **David Himmelstein, MD**, and **Steffie Woolhandler, MD, MPH**, faculty members in the Department of Medicine, penned an op-ed in the [Boston Globe](#) exploring the policy implications of Medicare for All.



Melisa Lai-Becker, MD, site chief of emergency medicine at CHA Everett Hospital,

spoke with local NPR affiliate [WBUR](#) for a story about the rise of meth overdoses.

CHA was featured in a post on the American Academy of Family Physicians' blog [In the Trenches](#). CHA was one of

Photos - CHA in the Community

CHA Celebrates Pride Month

On June 3, CHA staff and community members gathered at each of our hospitals to celebrate our Inaugural Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony. Executive leaders spoke briefly about LGBTQ history, the flag's symbolism in the community and CHA's commitment to its LGBTQ patients and staff. Then, on June 8, over 40 CHA staff, friends and family, marched in the biggest Boston Pride Parade to date.



Revere Runs 5K

CHA helped sponsor the Revere Runs 5K, an annual road race in Revere that raises money for scholarships for local students in early June. Staff from the CHA Revere Care Center had a table at the associated health fair.



TEASA Closing Celebration



four health systems highlighted as "disruptors" -- the piece noted CHA's efforts to reach into the community to address social determinants of health. **Laura Sullivan**, MD, chief of family medicine, received acknowledgment.

TEASA, an initiative of the Community Health Improvement Department, held its closing celebration at the enVision Hotel in Everett with members of the community, including **Representative Joe McGonagle**.



CHA Distributes School Supplies with Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone

On August 20, CHA teamed with Tufts Health Plan, the Somerville Housing Authority and **Mayor Joseph Curtatone** to distribute free backpacks and school supplies to children and teens who live at the Mystic and Clarendon housing developments.



CHA Honored for Support of Innovative Employment Program

CHA was honored for providing internships and job opportunities through Project Search and the Employment NOW Initiative by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.



Community Health Improvement Summer Interns

Over the summer, the Community Health Improvement Department hosted six Youth Mental Health and Wellness Interns.



Italian Feast in East Cambridge

On September 6-8, volunteers and staff from CHA were at the 94th Annual Italian Feast in East Cambridge passing out information about resources and services available at CHA. An extra thanks to CHA Patient Advisory Council Members who volunteered - pictured to the right.



National Night Out in Somerville

CHA staff were busy in and around Somerville in August. Pictured is **Somerville City Councilor Matt McLaughlin**, intern **Mihir John**, **Lisa Brukilacchio**, CHI, and **Alex Pirie** at National Night Out at Foss Park.



Brazilian Independence Day Festival in Boston

CHA was a sponsor of the Brazilian Independence Day Festival in Boston on September 8 at Herter Park.



Community Health Workers Graduate
CHA's Community Health Improvement Learning Institute graduated a vibrant cohort of 21 community health workers from its training program in June.



Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

On June 19, CHA staff participated in a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.



Students Visit CHA Somerville Hospital

Students from the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences visited CHA Somerville Hospital on June 20 as part of a health careers development program in collaboration with the Somerville Community Corporation's First Source jobs initiative.



Immigrant Solidarity

On June 24 - 28, staff across CHA wore butterfly lapel pins to symbolize unity and solidarity with immigrants.



Pre-intern Orientation Health Equity Summit

In early June, the CHA Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy hosted the 2nd Annual Boston Pre-intern Orientation Health Equity Summit. More than 55 incoming and current residents from CHA, MGH, BWH, BIDMC, BMC, Tufts and Children's Hospital signed up for a workshop before starting their intern orientations.



Cable Access Show Highlights Somerville Seniors

On July 28, Roberta Robinson, director of geriatric outreach at CHA, hosted a live taping of "Legacies: An Interesting Journey Through the Lives of Elders" at Assembly Row in Somerville.



Aging Wisely Everett Garden Club's visit to "Italy in Everett"

On August 30, members of the Aging Wisely Everett Garden Club took their annual lunch tour of Rosa DeMaria's garden - what the members call "a little piece of Italy in Everett."



Project Citizenship with Congresswoman Clark

Mary Cassesso attended a Project Citizenship event with special guest **Congresswoman Katherine Clark** on August 29. Congresswoman Clark provided an update about legislation and policies that are affecting the path to U.S. citizenship.



Somerville Health Foundation Grantee Reception

On September 11, community and city leaders, including Doug Kress, and CHA administrators, **Assaad Sayah**, MD, **Gerry McCue**, **Mary Cassesso**, Lisa Brukilacchio and Kathy Betts, gathered at Somerville Hospital for a reception to honor the recipients of funding from the 2019 cycle of the Somerville Health Foundation. Breakthrough Greater Boston, CAFE-H with the Welcome Project, Forsyth Kids, Friends of the Community Growing Center, Neighborhood Children's Foundation/Beautiful Stuff, Neighborhood Counseling and Community Services, RESPOND and the Somerville Food Security Coalition/Somerville Homeless Coalition received funding.

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Connect with us!