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Harbor Health Services, Inc.

The Harbor Beacon

Your Guiding Light to
Healthcare
July 2011

Dear Patrick,

I can not believe that August 1st is today and that the summer is almost at an end. We at Harbor Health hope you and your families have had a safe and exciting summer so far. If not, don't worry there is still a great month or two of great weather ahead of us, before we have to start thinking about long-sleeve shirts and jackets. Take a look at this month's newsletter. We have some exciting things going on.

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Hungry children is a growing issue.

According to a recent article in the [Boston Globe](#) the number of children seen in a major Boston hospital who were dangerously thin and underfed is on the rise since 2007. This is an ongoing problem that has been fueled by the economic crisis that many families here in the State are being forced to deal with. Being able to provide enough healthy food for one's family has become more difficult with the cost of groceries going up like everything else and an individual's income either not increasing or not existing due to the record high unemployment rates.

At the Neponset Health Center we can help with this issue. We have a food pantry located on-site. This much needed service is available on Tuesdays from 11am-12:30pm. Individuals are allowed to visit the food pantry once a month and will be required to fill out a form stating they receive assistance from government

The 2012 Budget: Where do we stand?



It is a tumultuous time for budget debates in Washington DC, meanwhile back on the home front in Massachusetts, just a few weeks after the Governor and the legislature passed a balanced fiscal year 2012 state budget, reports surfaced that tax collections for the fiscal year 2011, exceeded projections, leaving the state with more revenue than expected despite continued economic uncertainty.

Here at Harbor we have just completed our FY 12 budget which has some exciting provisions. Namely our budget did not feature any layoffs and in fact we continue to expand and grow hiring new staff in exciting areas like electronic medical records and clinical services. One of our fastest growing entities is our Elder Service Plan which provides comprehensive health, mental health and dental care along with social services, meals and transportation for 378 low income elders in the community. By the end of next year our Elder Service Plan will grown by almost 10% to serve 420 elders.

Down on the Cape we are busy working with architects and contractors on our new larger building for our Mid Upper Cape Health Center which will open at the end of 2012. By moving into this new space we will add exam rooms and increase our ability to meet the growing demands on the Cape. In addition when it is complete the new location will allow us to hire 25 more employees to help meet the growing demand.

Our new pharmacies at Neponset Health Center and Geiger Gibson Health Center, are up and running and we have now also added the convenience of mail order prescriptions. That means as a patient at one of health centers you can now enjoy the low price that we charge for our prescriptions and the convenience of having your medications shipped right to your door. Of course if you are already in the center for an appointment or in the neighborhood and prefer to stop in and pick up your prescription that option is available as well.

As you can see it is an exciting time here at Harbor. We are a provider and an employer committed to excellence and serving our community. We would love to have you join our team and or experience the Harbor difference by scheduling an appointment at one of our locations. For more information on how to make an appointment or to see open job positions [click here](#).

Daniel J. Driscoll
President and CEO
Harbor Health Services, Inc,

National Health Center Week is in August

August is an exciting time for community health centers as it celebrates their hard work and dedication to the communities that they serve during National Health Center Week which will take place this year from August 7th through August 13th. There are a number of events going on nation-wide, but here in Dorchester Harbor Health is gearing up for an exciting week filled with events.

"Celebrating America's Health Centers: Serving Locally, Leading Nationally" is the theme for National Health Center Week 2011. This theme highlights the more than 45 year record of Health Centers in providing high quality, cost-effective health care to all people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, financial situation or if they have health insurance. Throughout this week in August there are also three days that are dedicated to special populations who deserve to be recognized. Tuesday, August 9th is Health Care in Public Housing Day, followed by Health Care for the Homeless Day observed on Wednesday, August 10th, and Farmworker Health Day recognized on Thursday, August 11th.

The Geiger Gibson Community Health Center, which is the first CHC in the country, and the Neponset Health Center will be hosting informational tables at some local grocery stores during the first weekend. This is a great opportunity for us to spread the message of the affordable and high-quality health care that is available at our community health centers. Throughout the week we are also encouraging our

programs or meet income requirements. Please contact the food pantry at (617) 533-2248.

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current patients and community members to stop by and visit the health centers and see what is new. In the last 7 months we have added a retail pharmacy at both the Geiger Gibson Community Health Center and the Neponset Health Center.

Our big event to celebrate National Health Center Week will take place at Malibu Beach off of Morrissey Blvd., Dorchester, MA. It is our Annual Community Beach Party where we have a great day planned for the whole family. This event is FREE and is open to all, not just to our patients. We will be having music, games, contests, free food & refreshments, and much more. [Click here](#) for more information.

Harbor on the Hill



In Washington, DC the talk around town is all about the debt ceiling or the amount of money that the US can borrow to pay it's bills and whether it will be raised in time for the August 2 deadline. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner warned that failing to reach a deal on raising the U.S. debt ceiling could cause "catastrophic damage" to the American and global economies. Governor Patrick issued a statement after President Obama's Monday night address saying "For the good of the American economy and the American people, Congress should step up and pass a long-term, balanced solution that both reduces spending and raises revenue."

Harbor Health Services, other providers, as well as consumer advocacy groups are concerned about the debt ceiling because the consequences of not raising the debt limit are that the U.S. would default on its loans, would receive a negative credit rating and the inability to pay for public programs like Social Security and Unemployment. Along with talks about the debt ceiling, there are discussions about cutting spending for domestic programs like Medicaid, Medicare, Pell Grants, nutrition programs like WIC and food stamps and Social Security.

While Harbor Health is concerned with the stability of many of these public programs our main concern lies with the funding of Medicaid. Across the country Medicaid is the health insurer of 40% of health center patients and Medicaid and Medicare are the sole payers for every one of our participants in our Elder Service Plan. Significant cuts to Medicaid could mean that health centers and Elder Service Plans would be forced to lay off employees, institute hiring freezes or close their doors altogether. This means that patients could experience disruptions in care, struggle to access care therefore delay in seeking care or seek care at a more costly emergency room.

Harbor has been working with the [National Association of Community Center's Campaign to Save America's health centers](#). The Campaign for America's Health Centers was created to preserve, strengthen and expand the national network of Health Centers to deliver long term savings to the health care system and ultimately a healthier country. You can join the campaign by texting: ADVOCATE to 69866 and joining the health center mobile advocacy team. This will allow you to get updates on the latest efforts to protect health centers from federal cuts.

For more ways on how you can get involved contact Kate Audette, Policy Analyst at kaudette@hhsi.us or 617.533.2358

Harbor Health has an impact on the community it serves in numbers

Harbor Health Services is a non-profit, community-based health center that provides comprehensive primary and preventive health care and social services to medically underserved individuals and families regardless of their ability to pay. The health center strives to meet the unique health needs of its community in linguistically and culturally competent ways.

In addition to providing critically needed health care services, the health center is a powerful "economic engine" whose business operations significantly impact its community's economy.

Harbor Health Services:

- is a major employer in its community.
- provides direct employment for people in the community, including critical entry-level jobs, training, and career building

opportunities that are community-based.

- purchases goods and services directly from local businesses, thereby stimulating the local economy through an infusion of health center spending.
- further stimulates the local economy through the indirect expenditures of related sectors and the induced expenditures of new household income generated by the direct and indirect effects.
- engages in capital development projects, often acting as a catalyst for significant economic revitalization within its community by attracting investment and other businesses to the community.

Harbor Health Services had the following economic impact:

- Injected \$38.9 million of operating expenditures directly into the local economy, and stimulated additional indirect and induced economic activity of \$23.6 million.
- Had an overall economic impact of \$62.5 million.
- Directly generated 531 jobs.
- Supported an additional 146 jobs in other industries.

*Prepared by Capital Link with MIG, Inc. IMPLAN Software Pro version 3.0, 2009 structural matrices, 2009 county-specific multiplier, and the health center's FY09 financial and employment information. Direct employment data was taken from IRS Form990, while additional employment data was generated by IMPLAN, based on the organization's FY09 operating expenditures.



We hope to see you at the Malibu Beach Party on August 13th to help us celebrate National Health Center Week. In addition I am sure you are either sick of hearing about it or can not believe it is still even an issue but the 2012 budget & debt ceiling for the Unites States is still in fact a HUGE issue. Especially when it comes to healthcare and program funding being cut drastically. Whatever the outcome is be assured that Harbor Health Services, Inc. will do everything possible to ensure that our current and future patients get the high-quality and affordable healthcare they deserve.

Sincerely,

Patrick Michaud
Harbor Health Services, Inc.

Help us celebrate National Health Center Week and stay up-to-date with all Harbor news by Liking us on Facebook, facebook.com/harborhealthservicesinc.. Every 45th fan will be automatically entered to win a FREE Ipod Shuffle in honor of Geiger Gibson celebrating it's 45th year of service and being the FIRST community health center in the nation.



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