



District of Columbia
Primary Care Association

Action And Innovation For Health Equity.

www.DCPCA.org

About the DC Primary Care Association

WHO WE ARE

In 1996, a small group of visionaries formed the District of Columbia Primary Care Association (DCPCA). More than a decade later, DCPCA is a leader in the health care community as a non-profit health action and advocacy organization improving health care and health coverage for low-income, uninsured, and medically vulnerable populations in the District. Our membership includes 14 community health centers with 48 sites, as well as hospitals, managed care organizations, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, and academic health programs.

WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to facilitate the development and sustainability of an effective, integrated health care system in the District that guarantees access to primary care and promotes equity in health outcomes. DCPCA enhances and leverages resources to expand, strengthen, and improve primary health care services for District residents. DCPCA's outreach and activities connect with a target audience of over 6,000 groups and individuals who support our vision where everyone is covered, everyone is cared for, and anyone can help.

PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

Medical Homes DC (MHDC) works to rebuild the neglected network of primary care and safety net providers to improve access to high quality primary care in medically underserved DC neighborhoods. MHDC offers funding and technical assistance to expand and enhance care for those in need. MHDC includes the following initiative:

- ***Quality and Performance Improvement*** empowers participating community health centers and transform their culture by embedding Quality Improvement principles and practices, into the fabric of their clinic operations and patient care. DCPCA will continue to use this framework to support health centers as they move towards Meaningful Use certification and Patient Centered Medical Home designation.

Health Information Technology (HIT) includes three efforts that are enabling the capture and exchange of patient data within health care facilities and also among participating regional providers to improve quality and efficiency of care.

- ***Electronic Health Records (EHRs) Initiative*** completed EHR implementation with six community health centers in 2008 and now provides comprehensive EHR support services, including hosting, training, and application maintenance to participating health centers.
- ***DC Regional Health Information Organization (DC RHIO)***, launched in March 2010 to connect EHRs across participating facilities in the DC metropolitan area, allows health center and hospital providers to view consolidated medical histories and clinical information for shared patients at the click of a mouse. The DC RHIO is now expanding to include new participants and has been designated to serve as the foundation for the DC State Health Information Exchange (HIE).
- ***DC Regional Extension Center (DC REC)***, now known as ***eHealthDC***, will assist 1,000 primary care providers throughout DC in implementing integrated EHR systems and achieving "meaningful use" of EHR technology.

Community Health Access (CHA) includes initiatives that educate and involve DC residents in shaping the primary care system and using it appropriately to meet the health needs of their families and communities.

- **AmeriCorps Community HealthCorps** volunteers are recruited, trained, and placed by DCPCA for a year of service with health centers and other community-based organizations, providing vital assistance to implement outreach and prevention initiatives with the goal of improving patient health.
- **Community Engagement** in neighborhoods provides leadership and shares current health care information at ANC meetings, local Health Councils, and community-based settings promoting primary care utilization.
- **Community Health Worker(CHW) Professional Network of DC** convenes and advocates for sustainable employment for Community Health Workers – led by CHWs

Partnership with National Park Service

- **Healthy Communities Program** works with health centers utilizing Community HealthCorps Navigators to increase awareness and utilization of green space and outdoor facilities in federal and local parks for exercise and fitness opportunities.
- **Community Action** efforts by DCPCA brought more than one hundred volunteers to install fitness stations, signage and conduct a park cleanup at Ft. Mahan Park.

OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Policy and Health Reform efforts by DCPCA are aimed at expanding and upgrading the quality of safety net services and ensuring continued sustainability of these services in the future. The current goals of our policy and health reform efforts include:

- **Preserve and strengthen the safety net health center network.** Monitor funding and regulatory issues and advocate for reimbursement rates that truly cover the costs of patient care.
- **Maximize coverage opportunities for the medically vulnerable.** Based on national health reform and new federal initiatives, monitor local opportunities for Medicaid and other expansions of coverage, such as the Health Insurance Exchange.
- **Improve the standards of care for targeted at-risk populations.** Improve access to mental health and substance abuse services and continue expansion of oral health benefits for low-income residents.
- **Strengthen the District's primary care and allied health workforce.** Ensure that there is a sufficient workforce to connect patients with health services and provide care, through efforts related to community health worker programs, DC Health Professional Loan Repayment program, and affordable malpractice coverage.
- **Leverage the power of health information technology.** Continue to increase resources in the District to expand and sustain health information technology, including facilitating the adoption of EHRs and building upon the DC RHIO and State HIE.
- **Improve the District's health outcomes.** Assist health centers in achieving meaningful use and certification as patient-centered medical homes to provide higher quality, cost-effective, comprehensive, and coordinated care.

ANYONE CAN HELP

- **JOIN.** Become a member of DCPCA.
- **CONTRIBUTE.** Support the dream of health equity – quality care accessible and affordable for all.
- **STAY INFORMED.** Subscribe to DCPCA's *Health Equity Alert*.
- **FOR MORE INFORMATION.** Contact: Karen Szulgit, KSzulgit@dcpca.org www.dcpca.org.

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