



MOSES/WEITZMAN
Health System

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Healthcare in Focus



Several students from the NIMAA graduating class celebrate their achievement at a ceremony in the Middletown, CT rooftop garden at CHCI.

Training a New Generation of Medical Assistants

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) celebrated its largest graduating class in the Fall of 2024, with 127 medical assistants earning certification.

A Denver based affiliate of the Moses/Weitzman Health System (MWHS), NIMAA collaborates with 41 health centers across the country to provide both online and hands-on job training for new medical assistants. NIMAA's combination of affordability, flexibility, high-quality curriculum, and practical training attracts a large number of individuals eager to pursue a career in healthcare. By offering this accessible post-secondary training to students from underserved communities, we are creating unique professional opportunities while helping to meet the critical shortage of healthcare providers.

Medical assistants are one of the fastest growing healthcare careers in the U.S. Well-trained medical assistants play a vital role in patient care, often serving as the first point of contact between patients and providers. The numbers speak for themselves—with consistently high enrollment in the program, including a Spring 2025 cohort of 120 students, NIMAA is equipping its graduates with the skills to thrive in high-performing, team-oriented healthcare environments.

Through its continued commitment to offering exceptional training, resources, and support, NIMAA is helping to build a stronger workforce and advance healthcare for all. ■

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New Horizons: Over 40 Years of Hope and Healing

For more than 40 years, New Horizons has provided emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline, medical care, crisis counseling, and court advocacy services to victims of domestic and intimate partner violence in Middlesex County.

The National Library of Medicine defines intimate partner violence as stalking, sexual and physical abuse, and/or psychological aggression committed by a current or former partner. It's a pattern of intentional coercive and abusive behaviors aimed at controlling another person's life.

As a program of Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI), New Horizons' mission is to end the cycle of abuse and break the silence surrounding domestic and intimate partner violence. The cycle starts when children witness or endure abuse at home and carry that violent behavior—or tolerance of it—into their adult relationships.

New Horizons' trauma-informed services are tailored to each individual's unique situation. Advocates and counselors help victims develop a personalized safety plan—a practical set of actions that lower a victim's risk of continued harm. *On average, it takes a victim seven attempts to leave before successfully escaping their abuser.* Having a plan and access to New

Horizons' highly trained and experienced advocates, counselors, and providers 24/7 is vital to their success.

- In the first seven months of 2025, New Horizons provided:
- Emergency safe shelter to 41 adult victims and 20 children
 - 856 sessions of court advocacy services including assistance with victim impact statements and support during court appearances
 - 1,000+ individual and group crisis counseling sessions
 - 671 individual safety planning sessions
 - 900+ encounters to assist victims with basic living needs (food, clothing, etc.)



"I'm no longer waiting for something terrible to happen. My kids and I laugh and eat meals together and we know that it's going to happen again tomorrow and the day after that. We went from tears to smiles! We're in our own apartment and I have a job that I love. A year ago, I never imagined this could happen. I honestly thought I would be dead by now. Someday, I'm going to find a way to help New Horizons because I want to show my kids how important it is to 'be there' for other people like they were there for us." -31-year-old mother of three

Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Director Kasey Harding is honored and inspired by her New Horizons team, saying "they are compassionate, knowledgeable, and savvy in the nuances of trauma-informed care. In addition to keeping clients safe, they strive each day to empower and help them heal...to create moments of joy and warmth for them and their children."

Each year New Horizons also provides thousands of children and adults with free outreach and education on domestic and intimate partner violence through partnerships with schools, libraries, faith-based groups, hospitals, community organizations, and businesses. Current uncertainties in federal funding pose a great risk to clients and services.

"New Horizons encourages individuals to come forward to seek safety and healing, but we have to work twice as hard now to maintain resources to truly care for them because of federal funding cuts," says Harding.

When a victim takes the dangerous step of fleeing their abuser, often with their children, they are at their most vulnerable and counting on New Horizons to protect them. Donor support is crucial to ensuring they can reach help in those moments of bravery. With ongoing help, New Horizons will keep empowering victims to become survivors. ■

Your Gifts in Action: Stories of Impact

Thanks to donor support, powerful initiatives through MWHS affiliates and programs are creating a lasting impact every day! Here are just a few ways incredible donors like you make a difference.



Thanks to a generous donation from Breath of Life Fellowship Church in Stamford, CT, **Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI)** distributed 300 new pairs of Nike sneakers to community members in need.

"There was a moment amidst the boxes and crowds that I looked around and teared up, thinking about the amazing individuals I have the privilege to work with and who wholeheartedly gave their Saturday to share this...with our patients and community." - Nicole Seagriff, CHCI Vice President of the Western Region



Child Guidance Center of Southern CT (CGC) launched its first art therapy program, using sensory activities like drawing, painting, sculpting, and open-ended play. Art helps children and teens express emotions, reduce anxiety, and show their personalities.

"I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact access to art supplies can have in therapy. For many, especially those processing trauma or navigating depression, words can feel impossible. Through drawing, painting, and creative expression, [young clients] begin to open up. Art allows them to express what feels too heavy to say. It transforms the therapeutic space into one that feels safe, empowering, and affirming. Having access to art supplies means we can continue to provide care that goes beyond talk therapy; we can continue to meet clients where they are." – Imani Morgan, CGC Behavioral Health Clinician



Prescription for Play (P4P) is a free program created by The LEGO® Group for pediatric providers to talk with caregivers during exams about the vital role of play for kids ages 18–36 months. Children receive LEGO® DUPLO® bricks during their exams that they can then take home. Since 2021, the **Weitzman Institute** has been helping expand P4P to under-resourced communities and leading a multi-year study. Since then, P4P has distributed 2.8 million kits to over 5,500 providers and 1,600 organizations nationwide.

"Our job as clinicians is to make sure the child grows and develops to the best of their ability. Carving out that time to talk about the importance of play for growth and development is worth it. A simple statement, reminding the families that playing can support their [child's] health in the long term...[that] the most important thing is that you sit down with your child and play." - Marie Alexis Ingco, CPNP-PC, P4P network provider

Honoring the Exchange Club of Portland: Partners in Hope

We are honored to recognize the Exchange Club of Portland for their outstanding commitment to survivors of domestic violence through their gifts to New Horizons. For many years, the Exchange Club has been a steadfast partner in New Horizons' mission to provide safety, shelter, and hope to individuals and families escaping abuse.

The Exchange Club's mission is to actively inspire communities to become better places to live through a focus on family, community, and country. Their recent contributions have helped fund critical services, including the 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, counseling, and advocacy. These resources are often a lifeline for those who arrive at New Horizons' doors with little more than the courage to take the first step toward a new beginning.

The Exchange Club's generosity reflects a shared belief that every person deserves to live free from fear. Their gifts not only meet urgent needs but also inspire our community to come together in support of survivors. New Horizons' clients, staff, and volunteers extend heartfelt thanks to the Exchange Club of Portland CT, whose compassion and leadership make it possible to continue offering a safe haven and a pathway to healing. ■

Support Our Work

You can support our programs and help us work toward healthcare for all in Connecticut, the nation, and beyond! There are many ways you can make a difference, whether making a gift online, through stock, or including us in your estate plans.

To learn more about how you can make a difference visit www.mwhs1.com or contact our Development Team at development@mwhs1.com



Continuing Care as Coverage Fades

How new Medicaid legislation will affect access to affordable healthcare

On July 4, 2025, President Donald Trump signed into law H.R.1, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, significantly curtailing federal support for Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace. The legislation introduces new barriers for individuals seeking health coverage, particularly those in vulnerable populations.

Medicaid, a federally funded but state-administered program, provides health insurance to low-income individuals who meet eligibility criteria. In Connecticut, approximately 917,000 residents are currently enrolled in HUSKY Health, the state’s Medicaid program, according to the CT Department of Social Services (DSS). Nationally, 78.4 million people depend on Medicaid for health coverage.

Under the new law, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that nearly 12 million people will be uninsured by 2034. The impacts will be felt disproportionately by already at risk individuals and those living in rural or remote areas. The decline in coverage will ripple across the healthcare system, straining federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) like Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI), hospitals, and nursing homes. Since Medicaid partially covers the cost of care, facilities will be forced to absorb the shortfall—likely leading to reduced services, workforce reductions, or even closures.

With the passage of H.R.1, many of the 77,000 CHCI patients who are on Medicaid could soon find themselves without coverage for the care they need.



Families in need pick up supplies at the 2024 CHCI Baby Shower.

Many of these individuals will still turn to CHCI for care, who will meet their needs regardless of their insurance coverage. As a result, the financial burden of serving uninsured patients will increasingly fall on the health center itself.

The legislation imposes major restrictions that will limit Medicaid access:

Work Requirements

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), an independent non-profit source for health policy review and news, starting as early as January 2027, Medicaid applicants and re-enrollees aged 19 to 64 must provide documentation proving at least 80 hours per month of work, community service, class attendance, or job training—or demonstrate a monthly income of at least \$580. Limited exemptions apply for individuals such as caregivers of young children and those qualifying as medically frail. The Commonwealth Fund, an independent healthcare analysis non-profit, estimates that nearly 5.6 million Medicaid patients living in states that fall under these new work requirements (40 states plus Washington, D.C.) will lose coverage, which equates to a loss of almost \$32 billion for community health centers.

ACA Re-Application Burdens

Under the ACA Medicaid expansion, re-enrollment was previously automatic. The new law now requires adults to report on their work status every six months in order to maintain eligibility for Medicaid. KFF studies show that this frequent reporting introduces administrative burdens both for the state and for enrollees—particularly low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities—likely causing widespread lapses in coverage.

Restrictions for Foreign-Born U.S. Residents

The legislation slashes ACA subsidies that have helped these individuals afford health insurance. Those impacted include hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers, human trafficking victims, and refugees already living legally in the U.S. (KFF).



Community members are given medical care and wellness supplies by CHCI mobile health unit staff at a remote location.

Impact in Connecticut

Connecticut’s Medicaid program serves nearly 1 million residents. DSS studies show that between 100,000-200,000 people could lose coverage under the new law. Data from KFF highlights the vulnerability of current enrollees: 68% of nursing home residents, 49% of working-age adults with disabilities, and 38% of children in Connecticut rely on Medicaid. Requiring re-application every six months will place a disproportionate burden on seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families that lack the time, resources, or ability to meet strict paperwork deadlines.

72% of CHCI patients have Medicaid as their primary health insurance, and 44% of them are children.

For over 50 years, CHCI has upheld the belief that healthcare is a right, not a privilege. CHCI is a vital resource for Medicaid patients seeking high-quality, affordable primary and specialty care. Over 300 CHCI healthcare providers are committed to providing the best care, meeting routine and complex patient needs at 19 primary care health centers across CT and through mobile health services and 150+ school-based health locations. CHCI delivers care to patients from every town and city in the state, regardless of their insurance coverage or ability to pay.

CHCI also meets the needs of CT’s most medically underserved residents through the *Wherever You Are* program which brings compassionate, high-quality healthcare directly to individuals facing housing instability and at-need communities. The program reaches homeless, domestic violence, and transitional shelters across the state

via a mobile health unit (MHU) with a team including a nurse practitioner, physician, registered nurse, substance abuse counselor, psychiatric APRN, and outreach worker.

CHCI’s four MHUs allow providers to reach more patients across the state. The newest MHU is a first of its kind, state-of-the-art maternal health clinic specifically dedicated to bringing critical services to women in CT’s rural areas who have long been without adequate access to maternal healthcare. It will reduce barriers to prenatal, postpartum, and general women’s health, bringing skilled clinicians, essential equipment, and services directly to these geographically remote communities where access to OB/GYN care has been limited.

Our community health centers are a lifeline for our residents, providing care to all patients regardless of their ability to pay.

- CT Governor Ned Lamont

These smaller, targeted expansions allow CHCI to have a meaningful impact with fewer resources. Many of those served by these programs are rural or low-income—people most likely to lose their Medicaid coverage.

Thanks to the generous support of individuals, foundations, and private partners, CHCI has been able to maintain critical services even in the face of these new challenges, including the loss of Medicaid

coverage for many of our patients. However, the financial pressures ahead will significantly impact CHCI’s services and patients.

It is only with continued private donor support that CHCI will be able to ensure that people across CT—especially those most at risk—are still able to access the care they need and deserve, no matter what. ■

ConferMED Cares

Founded in the early 2000s as a program of CHCI, now an independent affiliate of MWHS, ConferMED is the only eConsult service—virtual electronic consultations between medical providers—built by primary care providers for primary care providers. ConferMED makes specialty care available to thousands of patients across the U.S. who have limited access and often wait months or longer for an appointment with a specialist.

In the past year, ConferMED’s network of 250+ pediatric and adult specialists partnered with 3,700+ primary medical providers to provide over 40,000 individual case consultations to insured, uninsured, or rural patients across 33 states in need of this a vital service. While many insurance plans cover the cost of these eConsults, patients without insurance do not always have access to this valuable service.

In response to this need, ConferMED recently established a new fund to underwrite its services for uninsured patients across the country. The fund, **ConferMED Cares**, will support eConsult visits for children and adults who otherwise wouldn’t have access to the specialty care they need.

Consider the case of “Jim” a vocational school student who developed painful skin lesions that made it impossible for him to continue his training or his work. Jim didn’t have insurance that would help him afford a visit to a dermatology specialist. Through ConferMED, Jim’s primary care provider was able to access special imaging technology to capture high quality images of his lesions and submit them to a dermatologist through an eConsult. Together, they developed a care plan that resolved Jim’s symptoms and he was back at school and his job within 2 days.

ConferMED Cares can help further expand the reach of eConsults to vulnerable patients like Jim across the country, bringing vital care to previously unserved areas and communities. ■



Breaking Barriers to Health Through Compassionate Care

The Center for Key Populations (CKP), a program of CHCI, focuses on providing high-quality primary and specialty care to populations that more frequently face barriers to accessing healthcare.

CKP focuses on integrating specialty care into services for specific key populations. CKP’s areas of focus include HIV care, Hepatitis C management, medication-assisted treatment for opioid use and other substance use disorders, sexually transmitted infection management, and LGB health.

Substance Use Management

According to the Connecticut Department of Public Health, state residents are more likely to die from an unintended drug overdose than a car accident, with a mortality rate higher than the national average. Notably, 75% of Connecticut overdose deaths had potential opportunities for intervention.



CHCI’s substance use management program through CKP supports individuals battling addiction—whether to heroin, opioids, alcohol, nicotine, or other substances—through medication-assisted treatment and behavioral healthcare. Initially launched to expand access to buprenorphine for opioid use disorder, the program has evolved into an integrated primary care model that emphasizes reducing risk while meeting overall primary care needs. Through the development of realistic treatment plans tailored to each patient’s needs and abilities, CHCI offers support for individuals at any stage of their health journey.

“By being an integrated program with primary care, people can get destigmatized care for their addiction at the same place they get their treatment for their hypertension or the flu,” said Daniel Bryant, CHCI Director of Substance Use Treatment/BH Quality Improvement.

The recent fentanyl crisis has introduced new challenges, as it is more potent and deadly than other opioids. Although methadone is more effective in treating fentanyl addiction, it remains heavily stigmatized and less accessible. Reforming the legal framework around methadone could greatly expand access to essential care.

The biggest indicator of a patient’s success in CKP’s program is long-term engagement in their treatment. Recovery is a journey, and many patients don’t succeed on their first attempt, but if they continue to engage with providers and participate in the process they can achieve improved long-term health outcomes, even if they don’t reach full abstinence from their addiction.

“It is hard to overstate just how wonderful it is to see somebody find and maintain recovery. One of the lessons in doing this work is that there are many paths to recovery and getting to watch people walk their own unique path towards it is a beautiful thing,” says Bryant.

HIV Care

CKP’s HIV care services aim to reduce the spread of the virus and extend the life expectancy of those living with HIV. CKP provides specialty care services to CT families affected by HIV and consulting and educational services to organizations and communities around the globe.

Marwan Haddad, MD is the medical director of CKP and an international HIV consultant. He and his colleagues in the field are using medications, testing, and patient outreach to implement and scale up care for people with HIV.

Since 1981, governments and health professionals worldwide have marshalled a coordinated response to the HIV pandemic. Their goal: to identify and treat everyone with HIV and stop transmissions of the virus. “This is how we end the HIV epidemic,” explains Dr. Haddad, “by ending new transmissions.”



John’s Story

“John’s” journey through CHCI’s substance use management program highlights the power of supporting reduced use over abstinence. Diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, he began using heroin in his early 20s, leading to over a decade of use and multiple overdoses. Buprenorphine helped him stop using heroin, but he felt persistent cravings to relive his first high and later began injecting cocaine. Through it all he stayed engaged in CHCI’s care and continued participating in therapy. Eventually, with lots of ongoing support he was able to stop using.



In many rehab programs, John would not have been able to continue to use and receive treatment. He would have likely relapsed, been removed from treatment, and possibly died. However, CHCI’s reduction over abstinence approach supported his recovery so that John was able to find a job, live a better life, and eventually quit all drug use. John’s story shows that with patience and support, recovery is possible—even when the path isn’t direct.

In 2024, Dr. Haddad co-authored a publication *Primary Care Guidance for Providers of Care for Persons With Human Immunodeficiency Virus: 2024* which guides providers in their care of patients with HIV. It is one of the most comprehensive guidelines for primary care providers in this field. The new guidance includes information on cancer screenings, bone density, substance use, sexually transmitted infections, vaccinations, mental health, adolescent and pediatric treatment, “street medicine,” and more. It also addresses systems-related issues such as a need for patient-centered, team-based models of care, and reduced negative stigma.

“It’s an incredible document,” says Dr. Haddad. “Primary care providers can refer to one document and receive guidance on all aspects of delivering HIV primary care to their patients.”

The goal of the publication is to build a community of practitioners with the same information who share the same strategies and goals. By designing special guidance for primary care providers, Dr. Haddad and his co-authors are reaching an audience well positioned to stop new transmissions and hasten the end the HIV epidemic. ■



Scan the QR code to read the full study.

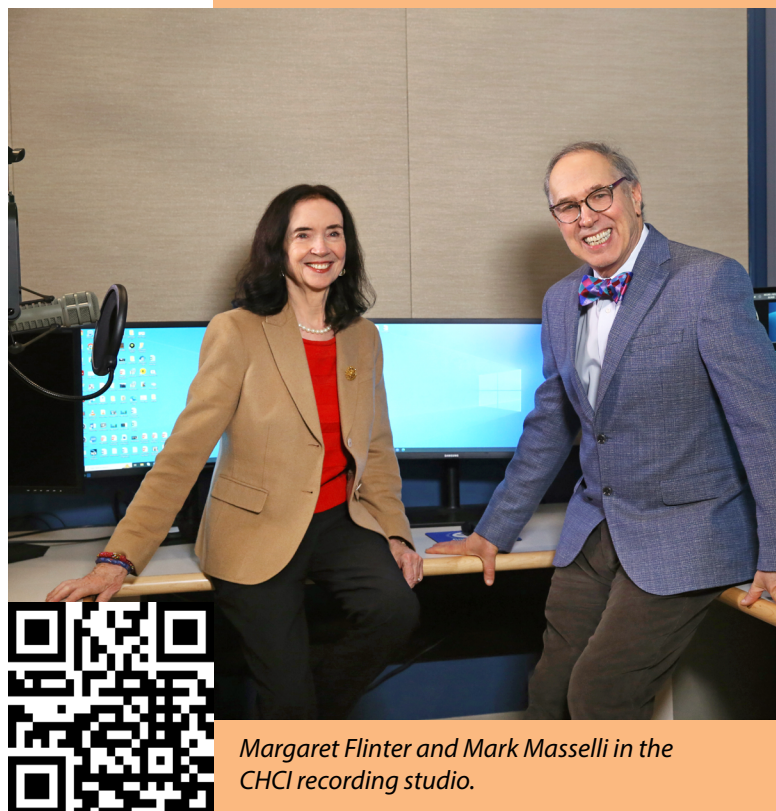
Conversations On Health Care

Each episode of Community Health Center, Inc.'s (CHCI) radio show—*Conversations on Health Care*—features in-depth discussions on health policy and innovation with industry newsmakers from around the globe.

Launched in 2009, the show is hosted by CHCI leaders Mark Masselli and Margaret Flinter. Their first guest was then Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, who joined them for a compelling conversation on healthcare reform. Since then, hundreds of episodes on vital issues affecting our communal well-being have been released.

A sampling of recent conversations include entrepreneur Mark Cuban on improving access to lower-priced drugs; Stanford University professor and author of *ChatGPT MD*, Dr. Robert Pearl, on the transformative potential of generative AI in medicine; and President of The Commonwealth Fund, Dr. Joseph Betancourt, on the potential for private equity funding to positively impact healthcare cost, quality, and safety.

Listen to archived interviews and new episodes and subscribe for updates by scanning the QR code. ■



Margaret Flinter and Mark Masselli in the CHCI recording studio.

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Always groundbreaking. Always grounded.

