



Community Health Center, Inc.'s Nurse Practitioner Training Program to be Replicated under National Health Reform Legislation

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MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT—

The Community Health Center, Inc. (one of the country's leading federally qualified health centers) announced today that its innovative residency training program for family nurse practitioners committed to careers as primary care providers in FQHCs was selected as the model for a new demonstration project under federal health reform legislation.

Mark Masselli, President and CEO, made the announcement along with Margaret Flinter, APRN, VP and Clinical Director of the organization. With more than four decades of experience in building and expanding a statewide community health center, Flinter and Masselli recognized several years ago that the complexity of the FQHC setting, and the value nurse practitioners bring to the role of primary care providers, warranted a significant increase in the investment in training to ensure that new NPs thrived in this setting.

In 2005, Flinter and Masselli launched the country's first formal post-graduate residency training program for new family nurse practitioners. The first class had four members and graduated in August 2008. Soon the fourth class will be accepted. CHC, Inc.'s staff nurse practitioners and physicians, along with specialists inside and outside of CHC, Inc., serve as preceptors and teachers in the program. The four components of the program, a 12 month, full time salaried residency, are precepted continuity clinics, specialty rotations, independent clinics, and didactic sessions, all designed to support CHC's model of planned care. Graduates of the residency have gone on to practice as primary care providers in FQHCs around the country.

Commenting on the health reform legislation that was recently signed by President Obama, Masselli said that, "CHC is proud that Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii had

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