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Leadership Team

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
Eduardo Alayon, LMSW

VICE PRESIDENT
Richard Thomas

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Millie Pacheco, BA
Victor Quarshie, BSc
John Ruiz, BLA
John Sibiski, BA

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Eleanor Larrier, MPA

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
Sharon Edwards, MBA

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER/
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DIRECTOR
Jay Izes, MD

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
Tashi Chodon, BSN, MPH

About BCHN

Founded in 1996, Bronx Community Health Network, Inc. (BCHN) is a not-for-profit organization and Federally Funded Health Center that sponsors 17 community and school-based health centers in the Bronx.

Our Mission

Improve the health of people and families in the Bronx • Provide access to affordable, quality health care especially for uninsured person. • Promote disease prevention, early treatment and healthful lifestyles. • Secure resources for programs and services.
Letter from

Eduardo Alayon, LMSW & Eleanor Larrier, MPA

Dear Supporters and Friends:

Twenty years ago, Bronx Community Health Network joined the national community health center movement. Today we are still passionately committed to the shared mission of eliminating barriers to affordable, comprehensive health care; community involvement and advocacy for health care services that address health and socio-economic needs; and securing resources to ensure optimum health for all Bronx residents. Now, as we and the nation face uncertainty about national and state funding for the very programs and benefits on which our communities depend, we take this opportunity to highlight the value-added contributions of community health centers. As the health care system and environment evolve nationally and locally, BCHN and multi-sector private and public organization leaders must continue to collaborate on care coordination and innovative strategies to reduce costs in all arenas. It is also important to educate and empower community residents to advocate for programs and services that will build healthy populations and strong economies.

Healthcare access is central to BCHN’s mission. In 2016 BCHN received seven new grants totaling in $1,252,379. These grants support expansion of BCHN’s community workforce and a number of Patient Centered Medical Home positions at the health centers: licensed clinical social worker, medical provider, clinical pharmacist, evaluator, data manager, data engineer consultant, program manager, community health workers; as well as IT equipment. The grants addressed significant community needs: parenting, safe sleep and breast feeding to reduce infant mortality; overdose rescue training for community members and health center professionals to prevent opioid overdose deaths; health literacy to help community residents better navigate complex health and social services delivery systems.

Through our contractors, Acacia Network/Promesa Systems and Montefiore Health System, grant funds pave the way for innovative performance improvement efforts to ensure patient care quality, safety and better health outcomes. BCHN health centers performed better than national and state rates for several preventive screenings: cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, depression and follow up, tobacco use and cessation intervention. Some BCHN health centers also performed better than national and state rates for hypertension control. BCHN’s multicultural staff also continued to grow as we added a new community health educator, a grants and programs developer, a community engagement policy analyst, and community health workers. BCHN has worked closely with our partners to standardize community health worker services and their roles as new members of the patient centered medical home team.

Our newly created BCHN Advisory Council is a great success. Members are sharing their expertise on BCHN’s strategic planning, quality and finance committees, and some have become members of the Board of Directors. We are grateful for the continuing support and direction of Board and Advisory Council. We acknowledge and honor the commitment and dedication of Mrs. Florene Criscuolo who served actively on the Comprehensive Family Care Center’s Community Advisory Board and BCHN’s Board of Directors. We express deep gratitude to BCHN’s executive and support teams for their diligence and attention to mission. We are proud of the work we are doing together with our health center and community-based partners to enhance the lives of Bronx residents and extend appreciation and thanks to all.

Eduardo Alayon, LMSW
President, Board of Directors

Eleanor Larrier, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
Overall, rates of infant mortality have dropped significantly in the Bronx. However, there are still some Bronx communities where infant deaths are disproportionately high (7.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in Williamsbridge/Baychester and 8.7 in Belmont/East Tremont) compared with rates of 4.92 in New York State and 5.96 nationally. With funding from Albert Einstein College of Medicine’s Healthy Start Program grant, our community health workers are teaching families how to prevent infant deaths, leading workshops on parenting, breastfeeding, safe sleep for babies, and referrals for assistance with Medicaid or the NYS Family Benefit Program applications. So far, over 363 parents have participated in Healthy Start and have been offered or referred to community-based organizations for free baby supplies or other supportive services.

The Healthy Start team collaborates closely with the Centering Pregnancy Program at Comprehensive Family Care Center and Family Health Center to identify women who are eligible for Healthy Start and enroll them into the program. Centering Pregnancy is open to women at low-risk for pregnancy complications. It offers prenatal care in individual and group visits to cohorts of pregnant women with similar delivery due dates, valuable information on pregnancy from their obstetrician and shared experiences with other pregnant women.

I thought, I’m an African woman and she’s telling me about going to parenting classes?! But then, she said I would get a crib for my baby if I completed the training. I didn’t quite believe it. A crib just for going to classes? So I went. And guess what? I couldn’t believe it. The crib was delivered to my home and my baby now has a safe place to sleep. Amazing!

- Diary
Healthy Eating

Community health worker, Pedro Gonzalez, checks blood pressure at a community outreach event and provides information to the community residents.

Managing Hypertension

Community health worker, Emma Torres engages a Farmer’s Market vendor in discussion about her produce. In the summer, The Farmer’s Market is stationed next to Poe Park every Tuesday in discussion.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are essential for healthy eating, control of diabetes, obesity and other chronic disease conditions. Above, community health worker Emma Torres engages a Farmer’s Market vendor in discussion about her produce. In the summer, The Farmer’s Market is stationed next to Poe Park every Tuesday in discussion.
BCHN’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention REACH CHAMPS project is a public/private multi-sector partnership to reduce the prevalence of obesity among minority populations in the Bronx. In collaboration with REACH CHAMPS coalition partners, three evidence-based interventions tailored to meet community needs have been implemented to reduce the prevalence of diabetes, hypertension and childhood and adult obesity: greater access to healthy food options; options for physical activity and recreation; and clinical community linkages.

Regular physical activity and eating health meals with adequate portions of fruits, vegetables, proteins and carbohydrates are proven to be the most effective strategies for managing diabetes and hypertension. Some 34 allied health staff including health educators and community health workers completed the Diabetes Prevention Program training and have conducted 42 intensive 16-week courses for health center patients who are at risk of diabetes. As of April 3, 2017, 577 patients have begun attending classes and 156 graduated the course. Average weight loss among those attending ≥4 classes is 3.4%.

Above a walking group of University Avenue Family Practice patients and community residents pause to show off their pedometers to the photographer. They walk regularly to nearby Devoe and Poe Parks, and during the summer to the farmers’ market. They are joined by Pedro Gonzalez, community health worker at UAFP and West Farms Family Practice.
BCHN REACH Champs program is partnering with supermarket and grocery stores owners to implement NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Shop healthy Initiative Standards. Nine grocery store and supermarket operators have received Shop Healthy designation and Bronx Borough President proclamations for meeting the seven standards.

Above, fruits and vegetables prominently displayed with Shop Healthy signage and banners in a supermarket.

At right, community residents display healthy portion plates. They plats have dividers to remind us of the right portions of fruits, vegetables, carbohydrates and proteins for meals.
Opioid abuse is a serious public health issue. Drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of injury death in the United States. In 2016 in the Bronx Mott Haven-Hunts Point neighborhoods, the death rate from heroin overdose (18.8/100,000 population) more than quadrupled the national rate (4.1). With a Bureau of Primary Health Care mental health and substance abuse services grant, BCHN is collaborating with Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, Associate Chief, General Internal Medicine, at AECOM/Montefiore, and Dr. Tiffany Lu, to train clinicians and Bronx residents to administer Naloxone. Naloxone is a safe medication that reverses opioid overdose and decreases the risks of overdose deaths. Overdose rescue kits containing Naloxone can be used by community members trained to save the lives of friends, neighbors and loved ones. To date Yaritza Holguin (right), community health worker and master trainer, has trained over 150 health care professionals and community residents to safely administer Naloxone. Participants receive rescue kits on completion of training.
Non-Traditional Physical Activity Programs

Cycling gave me an edge on my health. I can do things I couldn’t do before.

- Josue Nunez

Over the past three years, the BCHN-led Bronx REACH Champs (BRC) initiative, and coalition member Montefiore School Health Program (MSHP), partnered to integrate non-traditional programs (i.e., yoga, tennis, badminton) into K-12 schools to help increase youth access to physical activity during PE class and afterschool programs. Complementary programs have been now added at 25 Bronx schools, including Recycle-A-Bicycle (RAB), which utilizes the bicycle as a resource to foster youth development, environmental education, community engagement, and healthy living.

Josue Nunez was a student at Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music when he earned his first bike (pictured above) through the RAB program. Now a student at CUNY, he works for Recycle-A-Bicycle as a bike mechanic, and gives back to the community by instructing students at the Evander Childs and DeWitt Clinton campuses.
Coordinating Services for Patients

Ms. B is a patient at Williamsbridge Family Practice (WBFP). After several unsuccessful telephone calls, community health worker Michelle Forrester decided to visit Ms. B at home. Michelle says, “Ms. B welcomed me warmly. She was happy that her doctor had sent someone from the health center to look for her. As we talked I noticed that she was having trouble remembering simple things like who I was and why I was there. I wrote down my name and phone number and the day and time I would be back to accompany her to the health center to see her doctor. When I returned there were signs that Ms. B had multiple needs requiring attention. The medications on her kitchen table had expired; she didn’t seem to have a regular source of food; and she couldn’t identify a family member or friend that we could contact.” Ms. B’s doctor referred her to the hospital at that visit. Michelle kept in touch with the hospital social worker to “make sure that we were making every effort to connect Ms. B with services, and more importantly a family member that could help after her hospital discharge”. Michelle visited Ms. B on Christmas Day and left a card with her telephone number. “About 2 months later I received a call from Ms. B’s sister-in-law. She saw the number in the Christmas card. She thanked me for going the extra mile, but I was most happy and relieved that Ms. B was connected with family and getting the help she needed”.

Having health insurance, a welcoming, caring health center team and an assigned primary care doctor makes a world of difference in where individuals go for regular health care. Every year our patient liaisons in the Weiler/Einstein Hospital Emergency Department counsel over 4,500 patients who use the ER for routine or non-emergent care. They advise them about primary care options at our health centers, schedule appointments, make reminder calls and follow-up to ensure patient satisfaction with the care and services. The NYS Delivery System Reform Incentive Program is using ER diversion programs like BCHN’s to reduce unnecessary ER use and save millions of dollars for the health care system.

Ms. Solano says, “This was my first visit to the Montefiore/Einstein Emergency Department. Ms. Garcia came to me and asked me if I had a Primary Doctor and I told her no. She showed me different sites for Montefiore health centers, those closest to me for my follow up visit. She explained what documents were required for my registration and what papers I needed to bring. I felt very pleased that she took the time to explain how to get there and if I needed any help. I am very happy with the service Ms. Garcia provided in order to schedule specialist appointments and get a primary doctor”.
Many Bronx residents make difficult choices daily about how to spend limited incomes. They choose between health care, food, rent, utility bills, clothing, tuition, and even going to school or going to work. BCHN works to make health care easily accessible and affordable. Our Community Health Promotion and Education team assists with health insurance applications, schedules appointments with primary care doctors, helps to navigate complex health and social services systems to secure benefits from SNAP (food stamps), the WIC program, New York City Housing Authority, immigration services, GED and workforce training programs. Through the Affordable Care Act more than xxxx patients and community residents were enrolled in NYS Marketplace health insurance plans and Medicaid. Medicaid interviewers at our partner Acacia Network and Montefiore Medical Group health centers offer reduced, income-based visit fees to patients who are ineligible for Medicaid or ACA insurance. There is no charge for individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level ($12,060). Above, community health workers Ndeye Ngom Mbeke and Rhea Chandler are poised to assist with insurance applications.

I had to choose...either I go to the doctor or I buy food. I was so happy when she told me I was qualified and could get insurance.

- Bridget
BCHN worked with over 100 community partners in the Bronx on a variety of programs during 2016. In November, BCHN, Fordham Hill Owners Corporation, Monefiore’s Office of Community & Population Health and the NYC Parks Department joined forces with the kids from Washington Greys Military Academy to plant daffodil bulbs at Devoe Park (see the group above). During the holiday season, BCHN donated toys to the children of Argus Community ACCESS Program patients, as well as gifts for seniors at Bay Eden Senior Center (pictured below).
Pictured at the launch of dental services at the William Howard Taft Campus school-based health center (left to right): Tashi Chodon, Bronx Community Health Network (BCHN) Director of Programs; Lourdes Caratini-Herrera, PCT; Aliya Carter, DDS, School Dentist; Maria Gallardo-Sanchez, Senior Clerk; Jennifer Davis, MD, Pediatrician; Debra Sperling, DDS, Dental Director; Felipe Lee, Program Manager; Damiris Agu, BCHN Grant Analyst and Winsome Ramsey, BCHN QI Coordinator/School Liaison.

On February 26, 2016, the William Howard Taft Campus school-based health center officially opened a state-of-the-art dental unit to serve its 1,949 students. Funded by BCHN’s health center HRSA Expanded Services grant, Taft Campus is one of six Montefiore School Health Program centers that are members of BCHN.

The dental unit which is part of the Taft school-based health center has one exam room and a sterilizing room. Dental services for students include: cleaning, flossing, sealants, fluoride, fillings and X-ray exams. Other procedures such as oral surgery are referred to Montefiore Hospital or other neighboring hospitals. In 2016, the dental unit provided dental services for 137 students (307 visits). Tooth decay may result in pain and other problems that affect learning in school-age children. “It is a wonderful idea to have the dental unit in the school because the neighborhood is in high need for dental services,” said Mr. William Quintana, Principal of Bronx High School for Medical Science, one of the seven schools that make up the Taft Campus. Dental Director Dr. Debra Sperling thanked BCHN and HRSA for providing such an important service to the student population. She noted that dental care was a much needed service in the schools and hoped that more schools will have dental services.
A group of BCHN Board members, staff and patients traveled to Albany in March for Community Health Center Grassroots Advocacy Day. Every March, community, homeless and migrant health center supporters – board members, staff, and patients – from across New York State head to Albany to meet with elected representatives to tell them how much their communities depend on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) for high quality, affordable primary care services. Members of the BCHN team are pictured above with New York State Assembly Member Michael Blake. Later in March, BCHN headed to Washington, D.C. for the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policies & Issues Forum. Pictured below are senior accountant Donnette Junior and chief executive officer Eleanor Larrier.
### Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<th>Liabilities &amp; Unrestricted Net Assets</th>
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<td>Liabilities-Accounts Payable &amp; Accrued Expenses</td>
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<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
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### Statement of Operations & Change in Net Assets

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<th>REVENUE</th>
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<td>DHHS Grants</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>General and Administrative</td>
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<td>Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
<td>($35,729)</td>
<td>$4,236</td>
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| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, Beginning | $192,687 | $188,451 |

| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, Ending  | $156,958   | $192,687   |
BCHN partnered with Union Community Health Center and O+ Festival for a Healthy & Wellness Expo during National Health Center Week.

BCHN teamed up with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. on a Health Day event during Bronx Week.

On Advocacy Day, BCHN met with elected officials including State Assembly Member Luis Sepúlveda.

A walking group of patients and community residents traveled from University Avenue Family Practice to Devoe Park on Wednesdays.

BCHN sponsored the 4th U.S. Conference on African Immigrant and Refugee Health.

BCHN was recognized for its ongoing outreach and partnership by Highbridge Community Church.

Connect with BCHN

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SOCIAL MEDIA
Join @BCHNHealth on social media for the latest news, updates and events.

WEBSITE
bchnhealth.org