

MIDWEST CLINICIANS' NETWORK NETWORK NEWS

Advocating for Community Health Centers: A Collective Responsibility

Jeanie Blake, BSN,
Muskum Valley Health Centers, Zanesville, Ohio



In times of challenge, the importance of advocacy cannot be overstated. Community Health Centers (CHCs) serve as lifelines, providing essential primary and preventive care to the communities that need it most. These centers open their doors to everyone—families, children, farm workers, the homeless, and individuals with varying insurance statuses, including those who are uninsured, on Medicaid, or privately insured. Advocacy is not just important—it is critical to their survival and success.

To ensure the sustainability of CHCs, we must advocate for policies that prioritize stabilized funding, adequate reimbursement models, and increased budgetary allowances. By doing so, we enable these vital organizations to continue improving access to care for underserved populations.

The Health Center Advocacy Network: Empowering Advocates Nationwide

The Health Center Advocacy Network, spearheaded by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), unites CHC advocates across the nation. This nonprofit organization empowers health centers with tools, resources, and programs to build strong relationships among staff, board members, elected officials, and stakeholders. With patient-governed boards and dedicated leaders, CHCs remain committed to ensuring access to affordable care while addressing the needs for growth and sustainability.

Opportunities for Advocacy and Action

- **Engage and Register:** Encourage staff to register an account on the Health Center Advocacy Network website to spread the message of advocacy.
- **Participate in the ACE Program:** Join the Advocacy Center of Excellence (ACE) program to institutionalize advocacy at your health center.
- **Take Legislative Action:** Staff can get involved by advocating for current federal and state legislation through the platform, which enables direct outreach to members of Congress. Legislative priorities include health center funding, 340B, workforce investment, and telehealth.

Grassroots Advocacy and Local Impact

At our organization, advocacy begins on day one. All new employees participate in an advocacy presentation during their orientation and are registered on the Health Center Advocate site. Weekly Washington Updates keep them informed of key developments. Our executive team meets regularly with state representatives to share challenges and request support—ensuring that CHCs remain a priority in policy discussions.

We are also proud of our grassroots efforts. By volunteering at local food pantries and showcasing these activities on social media, we strengthen community ties and amplify awareness of our mission.

State-Level Insights

To further understand the impact of CHCs in your area, explore state-specific data through NACHC's resources: State Level Health Center Data & Maps - NACHC.

Jeanie
MWCN President

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Patient & Employee Surveys

Click this box to see patient & employee surveys available through MWCN. Customizable survey options for your employees, board members or stakeholders.



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Health Center Association OF NEBRASKA

The On-Demand Resource Library is your trusted source for expert-led resources that cater to healthcare professionals' needs. With topics spanning finance, administration, board development, and more, you can now access valuable insights anytime, anywhere.

Explore our range of topics and sessions, tailored to your role and interests:

Finance and Administration

- **Achieving Financial Success at a Health Center:** Resources for front-office staff and CFO/controllers on operations, compliance, and financial strategies.
- **Revenue Cycle Management:** Improve coding, cost reporting, and Medicare FQHC patient billing processes.

Advocacy and Governance

- **Advocacy 101 Webinar:** Learn about state and federal advocacy efforts and how to get involved.
- **Becoming a Generative Board Series:** From effective meeting strategies to succession planning, enhance your board's impact.

Operations and Patient Engagement

- **De-Escalation in Clinic Settings:** Master techniques to handle challenging situations effectively.
- **Front Desk Operations Series:** Optimize scheduling, customer service, collections, and more to improve patient interactions.
- **Working with Newcomers:** Strategies for effectively supporting and working with refugees, immigrants.

Board and Leadership Development

- **Health Center Board Series:** Sessions cover HRSA compliance, OSV preparation, board authority, and composition.
- **History of Health Centers Series:** Explore the origins, evolution, and considerations for governing boards.

Professional Development

- **Professionalism Series:** Tips for workplace success, understanding health center requirements, and professionalism fundamentals.

[Explore the On Demand Library here!](#)

Click here



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"The Midwest Clinicians' Network, Inc.'s (MWCN) fosters a collaborative learning environment for member organizations, empowering them to navigate the dynamic healthcare landscape and enhance health outcomes nationwide."

Lung Cancer Education and Quality Improvement Series

This quality improvement (QI) and education series will offer two webinar presentations and microlearning modules. The series will provide an overview of lung cancer screening and strategies to help improve lung cancer screening rates.



Welcome to the Lung Cancer Screening Quality Improvement & Education Series Project. This series aims to increase lung cancer screening rates for eligible adults in Michigan.

This activity is approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™, ABFM PI Points, and ABIM MOC.

REGISTER NOW

Registration for ABFM PI & ABIM MOC quality improvement cohort participants closes on June 2, 2025.

Registration for CME closes 9/15/2025.

Healthy & Easy Breakfast Recipe: *Cottage Cheese Egg Bites*

These cottage cheese egg bites are soft, creamy and protein-packed. A quick and easy breakfast perfect for meal prep or on-the-go eating.



INGREDIENTS:

- 6 large eggs
- 3/4 cup cottage cheese, small curd recommended
- 1/2 cup bacon bits or freshly cooked and crumbled bacon
- 1/2 cup shredded Colby Jack, mozzarella or cheddar cheese
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Grease a 12-cup muffin tin generously to prevent sticking.
2. In a large bowl, whisk eggs until smooth.
3. Fold in cottage cheese, bacon bits, shredded cheese, salt and black pepper. Mix well.
4. Pour the egg mixture into the muffin cups, filling them about 3/4 full.
5. Place a small pan of water on the lower rack of the oven. This helps keep the egg bites moist.
6. Bake for 23-25 minutes or until the centers are set. A toothpick inserted should come out clean.
7. Let them cool in the muffin tin for 2-3 minutes before carefully removing. Serve warm and enjoy!

NOTES:

- Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 5 days or freeze for 3 months
- Reheat in the microwave for 30-40 seconds before serving.
- Try adding veggies like spinach, mushrooms or bell peppers for extra flavor.
- Swap bacon for sausage, ham or even smoked salmon for a tasty twist!

Resource:
<https://tastygoodrecipes.com/cottage-cheese-egg-bites/>

Best Practices for Conducting Patient Huddles

Written By: Michelle Layton on behalf of [Compliatric](#)

Patient huddles are brief, structured meetings where healthcare teams come together to discuss a provider's schedule for the day, identify potential challenges, and strategize ways to address gaps in care. Patient huddles help to improve communication, facilitate care coordination, and support proactive patient management, making them an essential tool for delivering care in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs).

In addition to improving workflow efficiency, patient huddles are a requirement to obtain and maintain Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Recognition. PCMH requirements place an emphasis on team-based care, increased access, and proactive patient engagement. By incorporating structured patient huddles into daily operations, FQHCs can meet PCMH standards related to coordination of care, population health management, and quality improvement.

Below are some best practices for conducting patient huddles:

1. Establish a Clear Purpose:

Patient huddles should not be viewed as just another meeting. Patient huddles should have a defined objective, such as reviewing high-risk patients, addressing gaps in care, or discussing barriers to effective workflows. Keep the focus on patient-centered goals to ensure patient huddles remain productive.

2. Keep the Meeting Brief and Structured:

Patient huddles should follow a standardized agenda and last no longer than 15 minutes. Agenda items often include reviewing the schedule for the day, discussing gaps in care, confirming follow-up tasks, addressing social determinants of health and identifying potential barriers to care.

3. Include Key Team Members

Key team members in a patient huddle include, but are not limited to providers, nurses, medical assistants, social workers and front desk staff. Each staff member's role in the huddle is important and allows for comprehensive patient-centered discussions.

4. Utilize Data

Utilizing data sources such as Electronic Health Records (EHRs) and Data Analytics tools can help to identify overdue screenings and care coordination needs. These are critical components for reporting the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Clinical Performance Metrics, as well as maintaining compliance with PCMH requirements.

5. Follow Up on Action Items

Huddles should conclude with action items and assignment of accountability. Tasks should be assigned to specific team members based on roles and responsibilities. Ensure unresolved issues do not get "lost in the shuffle," in order to facilitate an environment of continuous improvement, which is a key expectation in PCMH-recognized practices.

To maximize the impact of patient huddles, they must be prioritized as a key component of daily operations, rather than just an optional task. Clinical Leadership should champion huddles by setting expectations, providing necessary resources, and fostering a culture that values team collaboration. When huddles become a consistent part of the workflow, they lead to improved efficiency, better patient outcomes, and stronger alignment with PCMH principles.

For additional information and available resources regarding patient huddles, visit ([Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - Huddle Kit](#)).



Visit
compliantfqhc.com
for more information

Come learn why FQHCs across the country are making the switch from legacy general employee training systems to **Compliatric**, the **COMPLETE** training and compliance management system designed for FQHCs and HRSA covered entities.

OUR CORE MODULES:

- OSV Program Management
- Policy & Forms Library
- Employee Training LMS
- Incident Management
- Agreement Management
- Auditing & Monitoring
- Grant Management
- Exclusion Monitoring
- Credentialing & Privileging
- CHC Board Management

Empowering Health Through Stories: A digital Intervention

Racial and ethnic minorities in the United States have higher rates of diabetes, and worse outcomes than the general population. Stories told by people who live successfully with diabetes may improve the health of people who are having difficulty living with diabetes.

Stories for Change Diabetes uses digital storytelling with a goal of improving diabetes management among Hispanic and Somali patients with type 2 diabetes.

Through a randomized clinical trial, Dr. Wieland and his team demonstrated that sharing culturally relevant digital stories significantly improved hemoglobin A1c levels, a key marker of diabetes control.

By combining technology with storytelling, this intervention not only addresses medical needs but also empowers individuals by amplifying their voices and experiences. It's a powerful example of how personalized, community-focused strategies can drive impactful change in healthcare.



[Watch the recording](#) of the January 2025 zoom call with Dr. Wieland.

To watch or share the digital stories with patients:

[Click here for Spanish](#)

[Click here for Somali](#)

New for 2025!


Mock FTCA Application Reviews



Make Your FTCA Application Process Smoother!

Are you interested in a mock review for this year's FTCA Application?

RegLantern's health center FTCA compliance experts are offering mock reviews to help streamline your submission this year. Our team will carefully review your documentation before it's submitted, making the process easier for you.

 Space is Limited! Requests accepted through June 8, 2025.

[Schedule a time](#) to learn more about pricing and how to reserve your spot. Mention MWCN for an exclusive discounted review!

Depression Remission Best Practices



Date: May 20th



12 noon CST / 1pm EST (30 minutes)



Hosted by: Health Center Association of Nebraska

Join us as we take a focused look at the UDS measure for Depression Remission and hear from Health Partners of Western Ohio about their effective strategies for improving outcomes.

This is a chance to learn from real-world experience and gain actionable insights to enhance performance.

 [Register today!](#)

ILLINOIS

Various Positions

Illinois Primary Health Care Association helps Physicians, Medical Directors, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwives, Dentists, Dental Hygienists, LCSWs, LCPCs and Clinical Psychologists find rewarding careers at community health centers throughout Illinois. To take advantage of IPHCA's complimentary recruitment assistance service please contact Jean Garner, jgarner@iphca.org, or visit www.iphca.org.

Various Positions

Community Health and Emergency Services 'CHESI' is seeking motivated full-time Registered Dental Hygienists and Certified Medical Assistants. Our FQHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Contact Suzie Turner, HR at sturner@chesi.org or call 1 855 MYCHESI for more information.

INDIANA

Various Positions

ECHO a community health center serving patients in Evansville, Indiana. We have immediate openings for Family Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistant, Dental Hygienists, RNs, LPNs, and CMAs. View openings and submit your application at <https://www.echohc.org/employment/> or contact Penny Ballew, HR Director at 812.602.2156 for more information.

IOWA

Various Positions

The Iowa Primary Care Association is seeking motivated full-time GENERAL DENTISTS at various Federally Qualified Community Health Centers within the state of Iowa. Our FQHCs offer competitive salaries with benefits, including opportunities for student loan repayments. Contact Michaela Shriver at mshriver@iowapca.org or visit <https://apply.workable.com/iowa-community-health-centers/> for more information.



KANSAS

Dentist

AllWays Community Health Center is looking for a dedicated full-time Dentist to join our team at our Atchison, KS location. We offer a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefits package, including generous paid time off. For more details contact Ariel Bratton at abratton@achc-ks.org, or visit our careers page: ACHC Careers.

MICHIGAN

Various Positions

MyCare Health Center is seeking to hire the following positions in Macomb County: Dental Hygienist, Medical Assistant and Medical Receptionist. We offer competitive wages, a generous PTO and benefits package. Please send resumes to hr@mycarehealthcenter.org to apply or go to "Careers" on our website at www.mycarehealthcenter.org.

Various Positions

Metro Detroit's Western Wayne Family Health Centers (WWFHC) is seeking vibrant Physicians, Psychiatrists, Behavioral Health Therapists, Medical Assistants, Dental Hygienists, Dental Assistants, Billers and Customer Service Representatives. Forward your CV/resume to humanresources@wwfhc.org. Please see our "jobs" on our website at www.wwfhc.org. We offer competitive salaries and a full benefit package including (medical and dental 100% free for employee only coverage, vision, and 403B with 4% match).

Turnkey Dental Practice for Lease

MidMichigan Health Services has a fully equipped, turnkey dental practice available for lease in Roscommon County, perfect for new graduates or established dentists looking to expand. Prime location, modern amenities, and a growing community demand for quality dental care. Roscommon county is home to a vibrant and supportive community. Many residents face barriers to dental care, creating a strong demand for local dental services. This is a perfect opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the oral health and wellbeing of this underserved area. Please contact Melissa Dunkle, Chief Executive Officer, if you are interested: melissa.dunkle@midmichiganhs.org.

General Dentist

Alcona Health Center (AHC) is seeking to hire a full-time GENERAL DENTIST in our Oscoda, Michigan location. New graduates welcome, loan repayment available. AHC offers a competitive starting salary with additional incentive opportunities and up to 8 weeks of PTO. Contact Carrie Porritt, Director of Provider Relations, by e-mail cporritt@alconahc.org or [Oscoda Dental - Alcona Health Center \(alconahealthcenters.org\)](http://Oscoda Dental - Alcona Health Center (alconahealthcenters.org)) for more information.

MINNESOTA

Dentist

Open Door Health Center is seeking a Dentist at our location in Mankato, MN to provide quality care in our communities. This Dentist will become part of a general dental practice, providing care in all areas of dentistry for all ages according to their comfort level and expertise. Generous benefits include loan forgiveness. Apply at odhc.org.

MISSOURI

Family Practice Physician

Central Ozarks Medical Center (COMC) is seeking a full-time Family Practice Physician for our Camdenton, Missouri clinic. COMC is a non-profit, federally qualified health center (FQHC). We offer a competitive base salary and quarterly bonus opportunities. Contact Amy McNulty, Director of Human Resources, at amcnulty@centralozarks.org for more information.

Various Positions

ACCESS Family Care has the following openings: Chief Medical Officer who is a visionary leader passionate about rural healthcare and improving patient care, and compassionate Nurse Practitioners to join our team in Anderson and Carthage MO. To see more information on these openings, please go to our website www.accessfamilycare.org and click on the career tab.

OHIO

Various Positions

[The HealthCare Connection](http://www.healthcare-connection.org/careers) is a local, non-profit providing primary care services to low-income families and medically underserved communities. Click the link below to learn more about our career opportunities. Apply today! www.healthcare-connection.org/careers

Various Positions

[Community Health Services](http://www.communityhealthservices.org) is seeking Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) or Medical Assistants (MA) to fill the following positions: Full-time- Fremont Office- M-F, Part-time- Napoleon Office- T-Th, Full-time- Fremont Office- M-F- Float Nurse (willing to travel between sites). CHS offers competitive pay and benefits! If interested, please visit our website: [Jobs - Community Health Services](http://www.communityhealthservices.org).

*Submit your postings for
our next newsletter to
Renee Ricks at
rricks@midwestclinicians.org*

De-escalation Strategies & Patient Interaction Insights

In this edition, we're sharing valuable resources to help navigate stressful interactions and improve patient communication.

- ◆ Calming & De-escalation Strategies – Dartmouth Trauma Interventions Research Center provides concise, practical techniques such as “low and slow,” “name it to tame it,” and “regulate over educate” to de-escalate tense situations. Watch the 4-minute video: [Click here](#)
- ◆ Identifying & Preparing for Disruptive Patients – Texas Medical Liability Trust offers guidance on recognizing behavioral cues and preparing for challenging encounters. Watch Part 1 (7 minutes): [Click here](#)
- ◆ How to De-escalate Disruptive Patients – A follow-up tutorial covering both verbal and non-verbal techniques to manage disruptive situations. Watch Part 2 (8 minutes): [Click here](#)

These videos provide actionable insights to enhance communication and patient care. Give them a watch and share with colleagues!

