

Prevention in Action: Our Annual Health Fair Story

Jeanie Blake, RN, MSN, MBA

Muskingum Valley Health Centers, Zanesville, Ohio



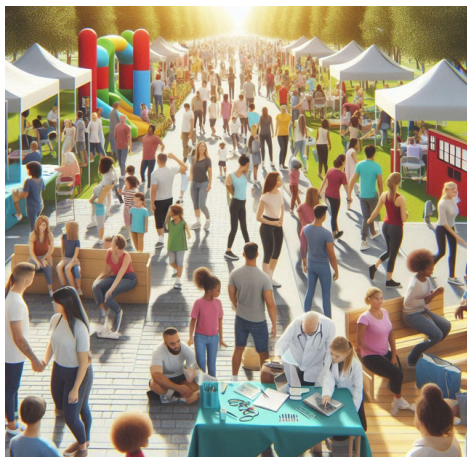
Our health center conducts **annual Health Fairs** with the overarching goal of enhancing attendees' understanding of the importance of **preventative care and chronic disease education**. These events are thoughtfully designed to engage our community in proactive health management and to reduce barriers to care through accessible, evidence-based education.

We utilize our experienced **RN Care Managers** to lead the educational efforts, offering personalized, one-on-one interactions that allow attendees to ask questions, share concerns, and receive tailored guidance. **Storyboards** are developed for each key health topic, including **preventative screenings** for colorectal, cervical, and breast cancers, as well as **chronic disease management** for conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. These visual aids are designed to be both informative and approachable, helping to demystify complex health topics.

In addition to these core areas, we also highlight the importance of **oral health** and the role of **annual wellness visits** in maintaining long-term health. We offer the opportunity to schedule these visits. Each station is staffed by a knowledgeable RN Care Manager and features **interactive educational materials, health-promoting giveaways**, and opportunities for meaningful dialogue. We have had the highest attendance when we offered flu vaccines and school supplies.

Our Health Fairs aim not only to educate but also to **empower individuals to take charge of their health**, connect with resources, and build lasting relationships with their care teams. By fostering a welcoming and supportive environment, we strive to make preventative care a community priority.

We have started planning for our fall health fair; the date will coincide with the arrival of flu vaccines and typically this is mid-September. We will communicate the date using our social media platforms on Facebook and Instagrams. We also place flyers throughout the health center and encourage our staff and providers to encourage our patients to attend. One of our providers told a patient of hers, that if she attended, she would bring her new baby in so that she could meet her, and she did just that and the patient was thrilled!



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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“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.”

Thinking About Research? This Video Series Can Help!



As more Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) consider participating in clinical or community-based research, understanding how to engage patients ethically and transparently becomes essential. The **Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP)** offers a free, public-facing video series designed to help patients—and providers—navigate the research experience with confidence.

The “About Research Participation” video collection includes short, accessible clips that explain key concepts like informed consent, participant rights, and what to expect during a study. These resources are especially helpful for FQHCs that serve diverse populations, as they’re available in both **English and Spanish** and focus on **clear, culturally sensitive communication**.

Whether your health center is preparing to collaborate on a research study or simply wants to educate patients about their options, these videos can support:

- Staff training on ethical research engagement
- Patient education during outreach events
- IRB preparation and compliance efforts

By sharing these tools, FQHCs can foster trust, transparency, and informed decision-making—cornerstones of ethical research and community care.

See the videos here!

Healthy Recipe: 20 Minute Zucchini & Corn Fiesta Salad

20-minute summer squash and corn fiesta salad with chili-lime vinaigrette, feta cheese and cilantro. A simple and flavorful side for all of your summer entertaining needs.



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 TBSP olive oil
- 3 small-medium size zucchinis, sliced into 1/4" thick coins
- 1 jalapeno, seeds and ribs removed, finely chopped
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cups frozen/thawed corn (or 2 ears of fresh grilled corn)

- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

CHILI-LIME VINAIGRETTE

- 3 TBSP olive oil
- 2 TBSP fresh lime juice
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp ground cumin
- 3 TBSP finely chopped fresh cilantro, plus more for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat 2 Tbsp. oil in a large skillet over medium. Add zucchini; cook 5 to 7 minutes, stirring only occasionally, until golden-brown and tender. Add jalapeño and garlic; cook 2 more minutes, until aromatic. Stir in corn, cook 1 minute, until heated through. Season with salt and transfer mixture to a bowl.
2. Prepare Chili-Lime Vinaigrette by combining olive oil, lime juice, chili powder, salt, cumin, and cilantro in a small bowl; stir with a whisk.
3. Add tomatoes and feta cheese to zucchini mixture. Pour dressing overtop and gently toss to combine. Garnish with additional cilantro, if desired.

Resource:
<https://dishingouthhealth.com/20-minute-summer-squash-and-corn-fiesta-salad>

Beyond the Shot: Turning Vaccination into a Gateway for Community Care



At Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), vaccination is rarely just about the syringe. It's about the moment before and after—the conversation in the church parking lot, the follow-up call from a community health worker, the quiet decision to return for a check-up. In underserved communities, where trust in healthcare may be fragile or fractured, **the act of getting vaccinated can be the beginning of something much bigger.**

Outreach events often serve as a first encounter for patients who've never stepped inside a clinic. By offering vaccines in familiar spaces—schools, shelters, libraries—FQHCs lower the threshold for engagement. These events aren't just about immunity; they're about visibility. They say, "We're here, and we're listening."

The real magic happens after the shot. Patients who come for a vaccine often leave with a referral for chronic disease screening, a behavioral health appointment, or even just a sense that someone cares. That sense of care is powerful. It's what brings people back—not just for their second dose, but for their annual physical, their child's dental check-up, their neighbor's recommendation.

Trust is built through presence. FQHCs return to the same neighborhoods, not just once, but again and again. They send community health workers who speak the language, who know the local concerns, who aren't just delivering services—they're building relationships.

And when patients feel seen, they begin to see the clinic as more than a provider. It becomes a partner.

Data plays a quiet but crucial role in this transformation. Outreach events generate insights—who's showing up, who's not, what barriers persist. FQHCs use this information to refine their strategies, advocate for resources, and ensure that their efforts match the needs of the community. It's not just about numbers; it's about stories told through patterns.

Partnerships amplify the impact. Faith-based organizations, food banks, housing agencies—all become part of the ecosystem. A vaccine event becomes a hub for holistic support, where patients might receive a flu shot, a bag of groceries, and a warm conversation—all in one visit.

And the ripple effect? It's real. Patients who feel safe and supported are more likely to return, to refer others, to engage in preventive care. One vaccine can spark a cycle of wellness that extends far beyond the clinic walls.

In the end, "beyond the shot" isn't just a tagline. It's a philosophy. It's the idea that **every clinical moment is an opportunity to build trust, foster resilience, and strengthen the fabric of community health.**



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

Closing the Loop: Strengthening Care Coordination and Referrals in an FQHC

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

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) play an important role in delivering quality, affordable care to underserved populations; however, resource constraints and system gaps can impact referrals and care coordination, making it crucial to “close the loop” for better patient outcomes and operational efficiency.

When a patient is referred to an outside specialist or attempts to receive care outside of the health center, there is a risk of fragmented care. “Closing the loop” refers to the process of ensuring that referrals are completed, results are returned, and follow-up care is coordinated in a timely and patient-centered manner.

Referrals are essential to connect patients with specialty services, although missed appointments and miscommunication can weaken their effectiveness. Some barriers faced by FQHCs when managing the referral process include the following:

- **Limited Resources** – Many FQHCs operate with strict fiscal and staffing restrictions, making it difficult to dedicate personnel primarily to care coordination roles.
- **High Patient Complexity** – Patients often face challenges such as transportation barriers, limited literacy levels and unstable housing situations, all of which add a level of complexity to access and follow-through.
- **Lack of Integration** – FQHCs and referral providers frequently utilize different Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems, leading to gaps in the exchange of patient information.

Improving care coordination requires the implementation of practical ideas to tackle common challenges. The following strategies focus on improving processes, boosting communication, and ensuring patients get the care they need without interruptions.

- **Develop Care Coordination Teams** - Establishing or expanding Care Coordination Teams permits health center staff to track referrals, follow-up on appointments, and ensure all phases of the cycle are documented. Care Coordination Teams act as a bridge between patients, internal clinicians, and external providers.
- **Standardize Referral Workflows** - Creating standardized workflows for sending, tracking, and receiving referrals helps reduce inconsistency, as well as human error. This includes the implementation of checklists, templated referral forms, and protocols for follow-up, and requires all staff to utilize the same process.

- **Maximize Technology** – Leveraging EHR functionality to generate automated reminders, alerts for outstanding referrals and patient status updates is crucial. Participating in Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) can also improve the exchange of information with referral providers and other outside organizations. The use of these tools can simplify workflows, enable easy follow-up and keep all members of the patient’s care team on the same page.
- **Promote Patient Engagement** - Care Coordinators and Patient Navigators can help patients understand the importance of the referral, assist with scheduling, and address barriers such as transportation or insurance concerns. Encouraging patients to be active participants in their care significantly improves follow-through.

Regular data tracking and performance review is essential to identify process issues and facilitate ongoing improvement initiatives. Key performance indicators used to evaluate success in care coordination include the following:

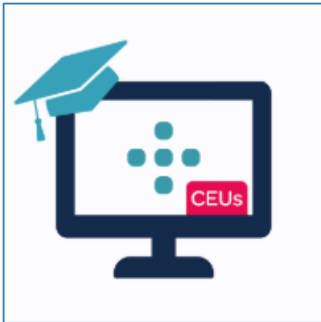
- Time from referral to appointment
- Time from appointment to receipt of information
- Referral completion rates
- Patient satisfaction with the referral process

As FQHCs continue to serve growing and increasingly complex patient populations, strengthening care coordination systems is essential for ensuring the delivery of high-quality, team-based care to patients. By closing the loop, FQHCs not only improve health outcomes but also reinforce their role as trusted medical homes where care is continuous, coordinated, and comprehensive.

Below are some resources that can assist with the implementation of best practices for ensuring continuity of care and managing referrals:

1. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): ([Chapter 4: Required and Additional Health Services](#))
2. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): ([Care Coordination Measures Atlas Update](#))
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): ([Accountable Health Communities Model | CMS](#))

CHC Clinical Leaders Training Institute-Advanced



The “CHC Clinical Leaders Training Institute-Advanced” is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of current community health center clinical leaders around various aspects of operations, management, and the changing health care environment. In addition to CHC specific discussions and case study activities, participants will also gain knowledge regarding clinical integration, enhancing management skills, the clinician’s role in advocacy, quality improvement, and leadership wellness. Networking opportunities will be available among peers and program faculty.

Day 1: September 4, 2025

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Day 2: September 5, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Target Audience

Various clinical leaders, including Medical Directors, Dental Directors, Behavioral Health Directors, and Lead Clinical and Operations Staff

CEU

Continuing education is made possible through the Community Health Center, Inc. (CHCI) and its Weitzman Institute, the research, education, and policy arm of CHCI. In support of improving patient care, this activity was planned and implemented by the Illinois Primary Health Care Association and Community Health Center, Inc./Weitzman Institute and is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team. Additional CE credits are available for physicians, dentists, nurses, physician assistants/associates, psychologists, and social workers.

8 CEUs/CEs Pending

Price:

Members – \$250

Non-Members – \$350

Location:

Illinois Education Associate, 3440 Liberty Drive, Springfield, IL 62704

When:

9/4/2025 8:00 AM - 9/5/2025 5:00 PM

Central Daylight Time

REGISTER NOW

ILLINOIS

Various Positions

Illinois Primary Health Care Association helps Medical Directors, Physicians, 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

Family Christian Health Center in Harvey, IL, a federally qualified, state-of-the-art health center, has multiple openings: Family Practice Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Certified Medical Assistants. Excellent benefit package, competitive salary, student loan forgiveness programs. Please contact Regina Martin, HR Manager at rmartin@familychc.org or 708-589-2017 for more information.

Various Positions

TCA Health Inc. NFP is hiring for a Director of Nursing and Clinical Services and a Physician Family Medicine for our Hammond, In. location. TCA offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Contact our Human Resources department at hr@tcahealth.org for more information and check out our website for more open roles and how to apply at <https://tcahealth.org/careers/>.

INDIANA

Chief Medical Officer

Neighborhood Health is a dynamic, fully integrated Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located in the heart of downtown Fort Wayne, Indiana. Neighborhood Health employs a workforce of 230+ employees at multiple locations that offer a variety of services in the Northeast Indiana region. Neighborhood Health is looking for a Chief Medical Officer to join our team in January 2026. The CMO will report to and work closely with the CEO while also partnering with other leaders and key stakeholders. Primary responsibilities include providing administrative and clinical oversight, leading performance improvement, and ensuring the highest quality of care provided in an FQHC environment. In addition to overseeing the other Medical Providers (MD and APP), the CMO will provide direct patient care approximately 16 hours / week. For more information: Careers | Neighborhood Health | Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Chief Medical Officer/Chief Clinical Officer

Indiana Health Centers, Inc. is seeking a dynamic Chief Medical Officer (Physician) or Chief Clinical Officer (FNP or PA). IHC is a state-wide FQHC providing quality integrated care at our 10 health center locations. Competitive salary and benefits including retention bonus, guaranteed annual increase, generous PTO and CME, and student loan repayment. Contact Kelly Rochford, CHRO for more information: krachford@ihcinc.org.

IOWA

General Dentists

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

Clinical Staff Nurse

Looking for new job opportunities as a Clinical Staff Nurse? Look no further! At Vibrant Health, we can help you reach your full potential. Our excellent benefit package and great pay are just the beginning. Our amazing culture is what sets us apart. Apply today and experience the difference! Visit our website to learn more about our career opportunities: <https://vibranthealthkc.org/careers/>.

MICHIGAN

Various Positions

MyCare Health Center is seeking to hire the following positions in Macomb County: Nurse Practitioner, Staff Physician, Physician Assistant, Community Health Worker and Accounting Controller. 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).

Various Positions

The Center for Family Health is currently hiring for several key positions, including Registered Dental Assistants, Medical Assistants (certified or non-certified), and a Behavioral Health Consultant. We are especially seeking Registered Dental Assistants who are passionate about providing high-quality, patient-centered care in a collaborative and supportive environment. These roles offer competitive pay, opportunities for professional growth, and the chance to make a meaningful impact in our community. If you're ready to join a mission-driven team that values compassion and excellence, apply today at www.centerforfamilyhealth.org. For more information, contact Nicole Applegate, HR Generalist, at napplegate@cfhinc.org.

Various Positions

[MidMichigan Health Services](#) has openings for the following positions: full time LMSW or LPC for our Houghton Lake facility, full time Maintenance position, and full time provider (M.D, D.O.) positions in Houghton Lake and Roscommon. If you are interested in any of these positions or to see more information about any of the openings, please go to our website- www.healthynorth.org or contact the HR Manager Tina Jeske at tina.jeske@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 incentives 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 \(alconahealthcenters.org\)](#) for more information.

Full-Time Provider

Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc (NMHSI) is seeking a Full-Time Mid-Level Provider in Oceana County, with at least one year of family practice experience. Join a mission-driven team providing high-quality care with a competitive salary and benefits. Contact Mindy Aguilar at maguilar@nmhsi.org or visit nmhsi.org to apply today!

MINNESOTA

Medical Director

[Open Door Health Center](#) is seeking a full time Medical Director with leadership experience. We are growing and this position will assist with overseeing our medical department for all sites. Contact Emily Mittelsteadt, Human Resources Director, at Mittelsteadt.emily@odhc.org or by phone at 507-344-5520 for more information.

NEBRASKA

Various Positions

The Health Center Association of Nebraska (www.hcanebraska.org) is seeking compassionate, mission-driven individuals for immediate openings in our health centers across the state. We are hiring in the areas of General Dentistry, Family Practice Medicine (MD/DO, PA, APRN), Dental Hygiene, Clinical Psychology, Behavioral Health, and Pediatrics. Our health centers offer competitive salaries, comprehensive benefit packages, and potential for student loan repayment programs. If you are looking for a fulfilling career where you will impact lives while enjoying work-life balance, contact Becca Usher at bmu@hcanebraska.org / 402.657.4076 for additional information.

OHIO

Chief Medical Officer + more

[Neighborhood Health Association \(NHA\)](#) is seeking a Chief Medical Officer. Due to continued growth, we are also seeking a Director of Integrated Behavioral Health (LISW-S/LPCC-S). NHA offers a competitive compensation package. Contact Kristy Dunlap at kdunlap@nhainc.org for details.

WISCONSIN

Various Positions

[Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center](#) is seeking a motivated full-time General Dentist. We have multiple locations we are seeking to hire for. SBCHC offers a competitive salary, benefits packages, Continuing Education, PTO, loan reimbursement options and flexible schedules. Contact Sara Cook, Chief Development Officer, at scCook@scenicbluffs.org or 608-654-5100 ext 2092.

Various Positions

[Community Health Systems, Inc.](#) is seeking an experienced Chief Financial Officer. CHS offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information, please visit our website at <https://chsofwi.org/careers/>.

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



REG LANTERN

Looking to boost efficiency and get more out of your budget? [RegLantern](#) now offers Fractional QI and Risk Management services, giving your team access to experienced health center professionals—without the full-time cost. We can handle recurring needs like monthly quality reports, quarterly risk assessments, peer reviews, and more. Want to see how it works? [Book a quick 15-minute call with us today.](#)