

# MIDWEST CLINICIANS' NETWORK

## NETWORK NEWS

Fall 2024

### Addressing the Rising Demand for BH Services

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As the demand for behavioral health services continues to rise in our regions, we face the challenge of providing more access. Frequently, the need for behavioral health is identified during primary care visits. Many of us utilize the PHQ-9 to screen for depression and the PRAPARE tool to screen for social determinants of health. If these screens indicate a need, or if patients express a desire to see a behavioral health provider, how can we immediately address this?

#### Integrated Behavioral Health

Integrated behavioral health is one way to accomplish this. It involves a team of medical and behavioral health clinicians working collaboratively to address all needs identified during the primary care visit. However, this can present both staffing and recruitment challenges.

#### Open Access Behavioral Health Schedule

An open access behavioral health schedule is another way to provide immediate access. This concept allows multiple primary care providers—pediatrics, women's health, adult health—to have access. Some of our member health centers have found great success with this approach. Each day, a behavioral health specialist has a schedule template with open access built into it. Patients can be immediately scheduled, and a brief assessment is performed to address immediate and high-priority needs, such as unsafe home environments or thoughts of self-harm. A comprehensive assessment is then scheduled within the next 30 days.

#### Creative Recruitment Strategies

Recruitment is an ongoing challenge. Here are some creative ways to engage prospective behavioral health clinicians:

- **Host Yoga Retreats:** Organize retreats at a local studio and extend invitations via social media.
- **Clinical Network and Learns:** Highlight prevalent topics and invite behavioral health clinicians from the community. During these events, representatives from your organization can interact with participants and share information about your organization.
- **Traditional Recruitment Pathways:** Attend job fairs, provide internships, and work directly with universities to present an overview of your health center to prospective graduates.

#### Leveraging Social Media

Social media is an effective pathway to highlight your health center's mission, services, and employee benefits. A culture that promotes work-life balance is a top priority for the current workforce. Offering paid time off, monetary allowances and paid time off for continuing medical education, and flexible work schedules can create a culture that promotes work-life balance.

*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.”*

## NEW Resource! Food is Medicine

The new BPHC webpage on “Food is Medicine” outlines various interventions that integrate food and nutrition into healthcare to improve patient outcomes. These interventions include medically tailored meals, produce prescriptions, and nutrition education. They aim to address food insecurity, manage chronic diseases, and promote overall health. Providers at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) can leverage these interventions to enhance patient care and support holistic health approaches.



## Food Is Medicine

[Click Here to View Resource](#)

## REFERRAL RESOLUTION NETWORKING CALL

Tuesday October 29th at 11:30 CST / 12:30 EST for a new networking call - “Referral Resolution Network”. This call will be the first networking call focusing on orders, referrals and closing the loop. We will have Kyle Vath, CEO of Reglantern on the call to give an overview/expectation of FTCA site visits. Linda Stevens, COO from Pillars Community Health will help facilitate discussion in an casual zoom with discussion and Q & A.



[Click Here to Register](#)

## A Guide to Essential Cybersecurity Tasks for Health Centers

### For health centers with limited resources, developed in June 2023



In an increasingly connected healthcare landscape, health centers face a dual challenge: the rising tide of cyber threats and the need to comply with stringent data protection regulations, all while managing limited resources. The ever-evolving nature of cyberattacks and the complexity of compliance requirements make it essential for health centers to prioritize cybersecurity tasks effectively.

Many Health Center leaders, IT Managers, and Compliance Directors are trying to ensure that they are properly addressing the ongoing tasks related to compliance and security. The guide,

available for download below, provides the baseline of day-to-day tasks that health center IT and Compliance staff should consider to protect their systems and comply with regulatory requirements. References and recommended frequency for each task are included as well.

[Click Here to View Resource](#)

# Sixteenth Street's Social Determinants of Health Team wins WPHCA's 2024 Performance Excellence Award



Madison, WI – Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (WPHCA), the statewide association for Community Health Centers, awarded [Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers](#) (Sixteenth Street) WPHCA's 2024 [Performance Excellence Award](#). Each year, WPHCA recognizes a team of Community Health Center staff working towards achieving the quadruple aim: improving the health of patients, patient experience, cost-effectiveness, and staff satisfaction.

Sixteenth Street's [Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Team](#) increased SDOH screening and follow up by more than 100% and launched the expansion of SDOH screening at four clinic locations. The improved screening revealed:

- 67% of patients express one or more barriers to accessing care
- Needs most frequently expressed included difficulty paying for rent or mortgage (19%), difficulty paying for food (20%), and difficulty paying for health insurance (25%)
- 15% of patients also reported social isolation, defined by seeing or talking with someone close to them less than once a week



Through the SDOH screening initiative, monthly referrals to Sixteenth Street's Social Services Department increased by 281%, from 75 referrals per month in December 2023 to 286 referrals in June 2024. In total, over 500 patients were connected to Social Services as follow-up to screening and over 200 patients received information on resources available to them in Milwaukee County.

There were ten nominations for this year's Performance Excellence Award including nominations for Access Community Health Centers, Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, Lakeshore Community Health Care, and Progressive Community Health Centers. Nominated projects included diabetes care management, depression screening, integrated behavioral health, dental quality improvement, and vaccines for children. All nominated projects are available to view [here](#).

Congratulations, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers and the Social Determinants of Health Team!

## Hearty & Healthy Recipe: *Best Turkey Chili*

*Homemade Turkey Chili is quick and easy to prepare and is packed with lean protein, fiber, plenty of flavors, and is perfectly spiced to create a delicious cold-weather warming stew. This Turkey chili recipe is hearty and healthy and made with simple ingredients— it's a comforting complete one-pot meal cooked in one pot to keep you full and satisfied for hours.*



### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound ground turkey
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 15.5 ounce can red kidney beans, undrained
- 15.5 ounce can pinto beans, undrained
- 14.5 ounce can fire roasted tomatoes, undrained
- 6 ounce can tomato paste
- Optional garnishes: sour cream, shredded cheese, chopped parsley

### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large pot or Dutch oven over medium high heat, add the ground turkey, onion, chili powder, salt, cumin, and garlic powder. Cook until the onions soften and the turkey is no longer pink, about 5-7 minutes. Drain grease.
2. Pour in the red kidney beans, pinto beans, fire roasted tomatoes, and tomato paste.
3. Stir everything together and bring to a boil. Once boiling, cover the pot and simmer for 30-45 minutes.
4. Serve hot with sour cream, shredded cheese, and chopped parsley, optional.

Resource:  
<https://princesspinkgirl.com/turkey-chili/#wprm-recipe-container-50497>



# FQHC in Missouri Takes Innovative Step to Improve Housing for Students & New Hires

In a recent survey of residents rotating through our clinics in South-central Missouri, we received glowing feedback about our clinics and providers. However, one consistent concern emerged: the housing situation. Many students either stayed at a local motel or faced lengthy commutes from Springfield, which took a toll on their overall experience.

Recognizing the need for better accommodations, a serendipitous moment during a jog in Ava, MO, led to a groundbreaking idea. While jogging around the park, our health center staff noticed a charming house for sale. Located just one mile from our Ava Clinic, the house presented a perfect opportunity to enhance student housing.

The proposal to purchase and renovate the house to be student-friendly, with separate bedrooms and bathrooms, WiFi, and television, was swiftly approved by our Board. This investment has already shown positive results, particularly for our Dentist residents, who now enjoy a comfortable and convenient stay during their rotations.

This initiative not only addresses the housing concerns of our students but also strengthens our recruiting efforts, ensuring that we continue to attract talented individuals to our health center. The new housing facility stands as a testament to our commitment to providing a supportive environment for our students and new hires.

We look forward to seeing the continued positive impact of this innovative solution on our community and future healthcare professionals.



## Free CME Course: Lifestyle Medicine & Food as Medicine Essentials

The American College of Lifestyle Medicine offers a free 5.5-hour CME/CE course titled “Lifestyle Medicine and Food as Medicine Essentials.” This course, highlighted by the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, focuses on the therapeutic use of lifestyle medicine to address chronic diseases. It includes:



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
**Lifestyle Medicine**

- **Introduction to Lifestyle Medicine:** A 1-hour module presented by Dr. Cate Collings.
- **Nutrition for Prevention and Longevity:** A 3-hour module by Kayli Anderson, MS, RDN.
- **Nutrition for Treatment and Risk Reduction:** A 1.5-hour module by Dr. Michelle McMacken.

This course aims to empower healthcare providers to integrate food as medicine into their practice, improving patient outcomes and satisfaction.



**View Course info and  
get the code here!**



© 2024 American College of Lifestyle Medicine. [lifestylemedicine.org](https://lifestylemedicine.org)

# The Road to the Correct Diagnosis



Sources: Balogh EP, et. al. Improving diagnosis in health care. Washington (DC): National Academies Press; Diagnostic errors: technical series on safer primary care. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2016. Singh, H. Types and origins of diagnostic errors in primary care settings. JAMA Mem Med. 2013;173(6):418-425.

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The ECRI Clinical Risk Management Program website features resources, education, and tools for providers and staff in HRSA-funded health centers, such as this infographic on “The Road to the Correct Diagnosis.” All resources are provided at no cost to HRSA-funded health centers, Health Center Program Look-Alikes, and free clinics on behalf of HRSA. Please refer to the HRSA/FTCA website at <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/compliance/ftca/technical-assistance-resources> (Risk Management and Quality Improvement section) for information on accessing the ECRI Clinical Risk Management Program website.

\*For access to the ECRI Clinical Risk Management Program website or any other questions, email us at [clinical\\_rm\\_program@ecri.org](mailto:clinical_rm_program@ecri.org).

## Links to Additional ECRI Clinical Risk Management Resources

- **Best Practices for Preventing Missed, Delayed, or Incorrect Diagnoses**
- **Clinical Decision-Making: Overcoming Patient, Provider, and System Challenges**
- **Get Safe: Reducing Diagnostic Errors**
- **Get Safe: Steps for Tracking and Following Up on Test Results**
- **Get Safe: Track Patient Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits**
- **Get Safe: Tracking Critical Test Results: Effective Communication Is Essential**
- **Get Safe: Improve Processes for Tracking Patient Referrals**
- **Get Safe: Using EHRs to Coordinate Care for the Complex Patient**
- **Recognizing High-Risk Clinical Presentations**
- **Test Tracking and Follow-Up Toolkit**
- **Using the EHR for Care Management and Tracking**

## ILLINOIS

### Women's Health

[Heartland Health Services](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center with many locations in Peoria and one in Peoria, IL. Our mission is to provide affordable, high-quality health services and remove inequities to improve the lives of all. Current positions open include two Certified Nurse Midwives, two Women's Health Nurse Practitioners, a Physician Assistant for our MAT Clinic, and a Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant for our Walk-in Clinic. Please contact HR at [HR@hhsil.com](mailto:HR@hhsil.com) for more information or you can apply online at [Heartland Community Health Clinic - Job Opportunities \(paylocity.com\)](http://HeartlandCommunityHealthClinic-JobOpportunities.paylocity.com).

### Behavioral Health Specialists

[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/or Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioner-Psychiatry, and Certified Medical Assistants. Excellent benefit package, competitive salary, student loan forgiveness programs. Please contact Regina Martin, HR Manager at [rmartin@familychc.org](mailto:rmartin@familychc.org) or 708-589-2017 for more information.

### 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](mailto:jgarner@iphca.org), or visit [www.iphca.org](http://www.iphca.org).

## IOWA

### Chief Financial Officer

Siouxland Community Health Center (SCHC) is seeking to hire a Chief Financial Officer. SCHC offers a competitive salary and benefits package. For more information about the position or to apply please visit our website [www.slandchc.com](http://www.slandchc.com) and click on the career tab.

### Various Positions

Eastern Iowa Health Center (EIHC) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is looking for talented providers to serve our community. We currently have immediate full-time openings for Family Medicine Physician, Pediatric Physician, OBGYN Physician in clinic or Hospitalist setting, and a variety of support staff. EIHC offers competitive wages and a robust benefit package. Please visit our website at [www.easterniowahealthcenter.com](http://www.easterniowahealthcenter.com) for more information.

## MICHIGAN

### Various Positions

[MidMichigan Community Health Services](#) has the following openings: MA/LPN needed to work in preventative services in our Houghton Lake office, MA needed to work in primary care in our Beaverton office, Radiology technologist needed to work in our Beaverton office, MA needed to work in our Houghton Lake School Based clinic, MA needed to work in our Substance Use Disorder Clinic, Family Physician in Roscommon office, and a Family Physician in Houghton Lake office. To see more information about any of these openings please go to our website- [www.healthynorth.org](http://www.healthynorth.org) and click the careers tab or follow this link [6204083:Career Search \(saashr.com\)](https://6204083:CareerSearch(saashr.com)).

### Various Positions

MyCare Health Center is seeking to hire the following positions in Macomb County: Dental Assistant, Medical Assistant, SUD/MAT Registered Nurse Case Manager and Executive Secretary. We offer competitive wages, a generous PTO and benefits package. Please send resumes to [hr@mycarehealthcenter.org](mailto:hr@mycarehealthcenter.org) to apply or go to "Careers" on our website at [www.mycarehealthcenter.org](http://www.mycarehealthcenter.org)

*Submit your postings for  
our next newsletter  
to Renee Ricks at  
[rricks@midwestclinicians.org](mailto:rricks@midwestclinicians.org)*

## MISSOURI

### Various Positions

[Missouri Ozarks Community Health](#) is seeking a qualified Dentist, Physician, and Licensed Social Worker to join our growing upbeat, positive team with focus on providing high quality care. Competitive salary/benefit package. Being nestled in the heart of the Ozarks, we enjoy the small town, slower pace lifestyle and outdoor activities while still near larger communities within a short drive. Join our team by emailing your resume to [jowens@mo-ozarks.org](mailto:jowens@mo-ozarks.org) or apply via <https://mo-ozarks.org/apply>.

## NEBRASKA

### Dentist

Are you a dentist interested in expanding access to care within your community? Nebraska Community Health Centers are hiring! To review currently available positions, visit the [Health Center Association of Nebraska's Career Center](http://HealthCenterAssociationofNebraska'sCareerCenter). CHCs provide competitive benefits packages, loan repayment opportunities, and much more! Contact [careers@hcanebraska.org](mailto:careers@hcanebraska.org) for more information.

## OHIO

### Various Positions

Looking for a career in Healthcare? Fairfield Community Health Center (FCHC) is hiring, and we have a beautiful, newly renovated clinic, offer great benefits which includes up to 13 paid holidays off, and PTO starting as of day 1, tuition reimbursement as well as the possibility of working a hybrid schedule, depending on the position. Visit our website at [www.FCHC.org/careers](http://www.FCHC.org/careers) or send a resume to [careers@fairfieldchc.org](mailto:careers@fairfieldchc.org).

## WISCONSIN

### Registered Nurse

Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers is seeking a Registered Nurse, School in Milwaukee, WI. Competitive salary and benefits. For more information, please contact Karyn Dowling, Talent Acquisition Specialist at [Karyn.dowling@sschc.org](mailto:Karyn.dowling@sschc.org) or apply on our website: [Careers - Sixteenth Street \(sschc.org\)](http://Careers-SixteenthStreet(sschc.org))