



"Partnering with local communities to improve the lives of children in need."

CAVU Partners with Three Additional CHCs

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This year CAVU has selected three additional MA Community Health Centers to partner with in our efforts to improve pediatric health. Each of these CHCs provides a new opportunity for CAVU to build on our experience and expand our impact, and we look forward to fostering lasting relationships with each.

In April, CAVU partnered with [Family Health Center](#) of Worcester, MA. For over 35 years FHCW has provided high quality, culturally sensitive care to families. CAVU is currently discussing options for program funding, including an expansion of their services for high-risk new parents.

Partnering with [Whittier Street Health Center](#) of Roxbury, MA, presents a unique opportunity for CAVU. Because Whittier is located near to South End CHC, a CAVU partner since 2006, CAVU will have the ability to compare and contrast how two successful neighboring health centers identify innovative solutions for their communities.

[Outer Cape Health Services](#) of Provincetown, Wellfleet, and Orleans, MA, is CAVU's third new partner CHC this year. Their coastal location presents Outer Cape with specific challenges, such as a need for disaster preparedness and seasonal changes in the populations they serve. CAVU looks forward to exploring how we can help address the needs of these unique communities.

CAVU to Fund Innovative New Program

CAVU has agreed to support a new pilot program at Whittier Street Health Center, one of our new CHC partners. This program, Race Around Roxbury, is a comprehensive approach to addressing pediatric weight management, which continues to be a significant issue among Whittier's more than 4,000 child patients.

Race Around Roxbury, championed by Whittier's Director of Pediatrics, Dr. Shikha Anand, builds upon lessons learned in Whittier's Healthy Weight Clinic. Whittier identified specific barriers to families in accessing alternate forms of weight management activities, such as area gyms/clubs and other clinical intervention models. In response, Dr. Anand developed Race Around Roxbury, which is designed to address weight management through a combination of counseling, interactive nutrition education, exercise, and fun physical activities. By running the program indefinitely, five days a week, Race Around Roxbury provides a reliable resource to parents looking for a high-impact after-school weight management program.

CAVU Spotlight: CAVU Agrees to Co-Chair Regional School Health Coalition

Since 2004 CAVU has been a strong advocate of better healthcare for schoolchildren in North Central MA. Our Collaborating for Children's Health (CCH) pilot program, run by Community Health Connections Family Health Center in Fitchburg, has impacted hundreds of children in two local school districts and has helped to bridge the communications gap between health care providers and educators.

In line with our support of CCH, CAVU has continuously sought to improve collaboration and communication between the many organizations who work to meet the needs of North Central MA schoolchildren. Community Health Connections has been a key partner in these efforts, most recently in spearheading efforts to create a Regional School Health Coalition in the North Central MA area. CAVU was honored to be invited to co-chair this important group.

The Regional School Health Coalition seeks to improve access to a full range of health services for school-aged children in North Central MA. The first meeting drew nearly 40 local educators, school administrators, school nurses, health care providers, social service providers and more. CAVU looks forward to working with the local community on this effort, so that the safety net for children in this underserved area can be broadened and strengthened.

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