

CAVU Update

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Students at one of the Collaborating for Children's Health school sites.

Dear Deirdre,

As the Fall sets in I wanted to take a moment to share some recent news with you from CAVU and our programs. Our Healthy Weight Initiative has been picking up speed, with Healthy Weight Clinics now up and running in four health centers across the state. We have also reached the end of our first three-year pilot project, Collaborating for Children's Health. See below for more on each of these programs.

On another note, we are pleased to welcome Barry Zuckerman, MD, and David Rosenbloom, PhD, to CAVU's Board of Directors. Barry and David have each dedicated their life work to improving the health of underserved communities, and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to CAVU. You can read more about both Barry and David below.

And last but not least, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Kris Cyr, who has stepped down this month from the Executive Director position at CAVU. Kris' leadership over the past five years has been invaluable, and we are fortunate to have his continued involvement with CAVU, both through development of data technology in support of our programs, and as a member of our Board of Directors. I have assumed responsibility for CAVU's operations as we work to identify our next Executive Director, so please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Best wishes for a pleasant autumn,
Deirdre Connor
Director of Operations

Dr. Barry Zuckerman Joins CAVU Board



Affiliations:

Chief of Pediatrics
Boston Medical Center
Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health
Boston University School of Medicine
Chairman and CEO
Reach Out and Read
Founding Director
Medical-Legal Partnership for Children

CAVU is pleased to welcome Dr. Barry Zuckerman to our Board of Directors. Dr. Zuckerman has devoted his career to improving pediatric health through the training of medical professionals and the development of strategies to transform children's health services, and has been dedicated to the successful implementation of programs emphasizing child development. Dr. Zuckerman has helped start numerous programs that complement and enhance conventional medical care, such as the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children, Healthy Steps, Project H.E.A.L.T.H., Witness to Violence, PainFree Pediatrics, and Reach Out and Read. Additionally, Dr. Zuckerman has authored more than 200 scientific publications and edited several books on the impact of biological, psychological, social, and institutional factors on children's health and development.

David Rosenbloom, PhD, Joins CAVU Board



Affiliations:

Director

Join Together

Director

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

Professor of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Boston University School of Public Health

CAVU is pleased to announce that David Rosenbloom, PhD, has also recently joined our Board of Directors. David has taught for more than 30 years, and has conducted and published research in both political science and substance abuse including a book on the development of the professional campaign management industry*, four national surveys on community anti-drug organizations and strategies, and numerous articles on substance abuse policy. He is the Director of Join Together, a program of the Boston University School of Public Health, which helps communities fight substance abuse and gun violence. He chaired a Special Committee on the Clinical Trial Network program for the National Institute on Drug Abuse National Advisory Council. David serves as a Director of Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Stop Handgun Violence and is Chairman of QuitNet.com, Inc. For 8 years, he was Commissioner of Health and Hospitals for the City of Boston, acting as the city's public health officer and CEO of the city's public delivery system, including Boston City Hospital, 22 neighborhood health centers, and the emergency medical system. David was also President of Health Data Institute, a company that pioneered the clinical analysis of medical claims data and developed managed care tools and techniques used throughout the country today. ([source](#))

Healthy Weight Initiative Underway, Positive Impacts Starting to Show

CAVU's Healthy Weight Initiative is a community health center (CHC) collaborative designed to improve the care of overweight/obese underserved children. The primary goal of the collaborative is to implement a multi-disciplinary pediatric obesity clinic at participating CHCs. Three health centers from across the state began the clinical implementation in June, joining Whittier Street Health Center, who originally piloted the program. Anecdotal evidence shows positive feedback, with patients actively engaged in learning more about nutrition and opportunities for physical activity in their communities. Collaborative participants speak

monthly via conference calls with each other and CAVU's Technical Assistance Team, providing opportunities for participants to ask questions as well as share best practices, solicit feedback, and build cohesion moving forward to address the problem of pediatric overweight/obesity. The first round of clinic patient data will be available in the coming months - stay tuned!

Collaborating for Children's Health Concludes, but Vision Continues

CAVU's first pilot program, Collaborating for Children's Health (CCH), has concluded after three years. The program, based at Community Health Connections Family Health Center (CHCFHC) of Fitchburg, MA, sought to improve communication between medical and educational communities and to increase access to a range of affordable, culturally competent services with a focus on mental health. This was done through parallel efforts to increase the capacity to serve children's health needs at CHCFHC and at two local schools. The program met its goal of improving child and adolescent mental health evaluation and treatment services at the community health center, and was successful in increasing cultural competency at CHCFHC through bi-cultural interpreters. It also laid the groundwork for continuing efforts to bridge the gap between schools and service providers and directly impacted several hundred children through mental health and referral services in schools in Winchendon and Fitchburg.

One important lesson learned from the CCH program was that collaboration in bringing schools and service providers together yields greater results. Thus, CHCFHC and CAVU worked together over the past 18 months to form the Regional School Health Coalition, a broad-based effort to bring schools and service providers together to improve the health of school-aged children. The Coalition carries out a variety of activities which further CCH's goal of bridging the gap between the medical and educational communities.

CAVU is pleased with the multiple positive outcomes of CCH, and will continue to work with the Regional School Health Coalition and other local projects which are continuing in CCH's vision of a community where medical and educational communities work together in support of children's health. For more information on the Regional School Health Coalition, please visit their [website](#).

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