



# EHC Employee News...

Eastport Health Care, Inc.

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## Winter Edition of the Quarterly EHC Newsletter!

This is our fifth newsletter, which continues in response to staff request. While this newsletter will continue to include staff news, news from the Board, HRSA feedback, and other updates, we also want your input, ideas and any news to share, so forward info to me as you think of it. Your suggestions to improve it are always welcomed!

~Holly



*EHC Staff news is generated for employees & not intended to be published to the community at large*

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**Did you know there are only seven more Fridays until Spring~?**

### Staff News:

Winter 2014—2015

Welcome to EHC:

#### Departures:

- ◇ Fred Conley, retired after 15 years of service.
- ◇ Theresa Brown: accepted a Practice Manager position at CRH

- ◇ Cammi Deschene , CFO
- ◇ Karen Burke , QI Grants Manager
- ◇ Jodi Buskirk-Business Office
- ◇ Ponuwon Bondeur— Reception-Machias

#### Other:

- ◇ Donna Beverly, MA-returned after an extended leave. Cheryl Mahar MA provided temporary support for Machias Medical.
- ◇ Kathleen Esposito is now working full-time AND she and Don Dunbar have announced their engagement.

#### Promotions:

- ◇ Deb Shields has been promoted to Program Leadership in her new role: Outreach-Enrollment-Benefits Coordinator.
- ◇ Natasha Fredette - Reception—Eastport
- ◇ Gary Degen DPM, joined EHC staff to cover for Nima and will be staying on! He is working in Calais and Machias offices as well as nursing homes.

- ◇ Sue Drew was out on medical leave and is back to work.



Day-light starts on March 8, 2015!

## EHC Updates

### Board News



#### Recruitment and Departures:

- ◇ Diana Graettinger resigned in November and is wintering in AZ.
- ◇ Suzanne O'Connor Ph. D, joined the Board in November and serves on the Community Committee. The Board continues to recruit from both the Machias and the Calais Communities.
- ◇ New or revised Policies that have been approved since last report:

1. *Table of Organization Revised*
2. *EHC Triage Decision Tree*
3. *EBOLA Preparedness Plan*
4. *Employee Change in Status Policy/Form*
5. *Controlled Substance Agreement*
6. *Sliding Fee Discount*
7. *Managing Sliding Fee Discount*
8. *BH: Managing Controlled Substance Prescriptions*
9. *Drug Sample Storage and Management*
10. *Office Closure*
11. *New Patients Released from Downeast Corrections Facility*

### EHC Goals for 2015:

- ◇ Transition to Athena Health EMR/PM systems: focus is on report writing and training for clinical staff so we all have a more robust understanding of AH's capacity.
- ◇ Meet Outreach & Enrollment goals to enroll 400+ uninsured and underinsured individuals in Washington county. Open Enrollment: To date, we have provided guidance and assistance to 316 individuals with 172 fully enrolled in marketplace health plans!
- ◇ EHC achieves break even status. Many improvements are underway!
- ◇ Participate in statewide assessment of pay-ranges. Create ladder for increases that is aligned with a break even budget.

### HRSA News:



- ◇ EHC's Notice of Grant Award for additional funds was received & is based on our PCMH accreditation. We were guided that additional annual funds will continue in concert with ongoing PCMH status. Great news!
- ◇ EHC was awarded one of 147 national grants for PCMH facilities improvements! This will support funding for needed renovations & improvements in our Eastport site
- ◇ EHC received an expanded ser-

vices award, providing support for EP Medical and BH. The funding rules were site specific; we are looking for funding opportunities to support Machias Medical.

- ◇ HRSA continues to focus on regulatory compliance, particularly related to Quality Initiatives (PCMH), meeting CMS productivity standards and quarterly reporting. We are currently working on a special project to increase our cervical cancer screening rates and will add other measures. Karen Burke is leading.

## Staff Recognition

- ◆ Great work by our 2 PCMH teams! 4th Qtr data continues to demonstrate improvements in the consistency of meeting or exceeding our required care measures!!
- ◆ EHC would like to recognize staff who go above and beyond-. If you would like to join the discussion, please contact Holly or Deb S.
- ◆ All EP staff who have rallied to support Bobbi-Jo as she helps her daughter on a long healing journey. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser has been announced: 2-22-2015 @ 4pm at the Happy Crab.
- ◆ Kuddo's to all staff--It's been a rough early 2015...lots of staff are helping folks in



## AthenaHealth News

**Athena Health :** EHC is coming to understand the nuances of the Athena Health System. We have now transitioned to weekly meetings with our Account Manager -Chris Pushor. He comes on site as needed to help with trainings and to coach staff so we can all improve our skills with their system. Ongoing meetings are held every Wednesday at 1:30 by conference call, so bring your issues, questions and challenges to your Program Lead who will represent you on these calls. EHC has requested additional training for all providers and support staff. We hope to hear about the date for the training, soon.

## Other News:

- EHC has a new partner-Cancer Support Center of Maine (CSC)! CSC is a non-profit established five years ago whose Mission is Advocacy, Action, Educate, Outreach, Support patients and families effected by cancer. CSC will be providing a Smoking Cessation Series for EHC Staff and Patients. Target start is April 2015. More to come!
- All Staff Meeting is planned for 3-25-2015 at 3:30. Please mark your calendars

## Employee Activities

- EHC has started a Wellness Committee. Deb Shields is leading. Many staff are participating in the Washington County One Community 2015 Fitness Challenge. EHC is providing pedometers for all staff and Board members to support their individual wellness plans.
- 2015 Annual Christmas Party will be on 12-11-2015 at 6:30. We are exploring the Hanson House in Dennysville for the Party.
- Deb Shields advised the EP site staff will have a Pot Luck in the Staff Break Room, on Wednesday 2-25-2015 over the lunch hour. The theme is Eat Healthy .
- The Employee Personnel Manual is in the middle of updates and will include a section on Health Benefits. We hope to have the revisions completed by the end of February.



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**Mission:**

*The primary goal of Eastport Health Care is to provide the residents of Washington County with the very best quality of comprehensive medical, behavioral health, and dental care and support services possible, regardless of ability to pay*



**Next Issue: Spring 2015**

## Employee Wellness



EHC is a participant in the Eastport Healthy Maine Streets (HMS) Employee Wellness initiative. HMS focuses on healthy eating, physical activity, smoking cessation. As a participating member, EHC will provide staff with information related to resources available to promote healthier lifestyle choices.

**HMS News:**

- ⇒ HMS received a 1 yr. extension on this grant
- ⇒ Eastport is planning an upgrade for tennis courts
- ⇒ New signage is being created for Sea St path
- ⇒ Biking/walking maps are being created for Eastport, Deer Island & Campobello
- ⇒ Employees are encouraged to take stretch breaks each day
- ⇒ Coming soon...An artistically created bicycle rack is being made and donated by Jen Hubbard from Quality Counts for our Eastport campus.

## Community Circles coming up:

- ◆ Integrated Behavioral Health Community Circle: Thurs. March 5, 2015 at 5:30 at DECH, Board Room in the MacBride Building.
- ◆ Gay Straight Alliance: Monday, March 2, 2015 at 5:30 pm at UMM-Torrey Hall: Room 104.

**ALL ARE WELCOMED!**

## 2015 Holidays observed at EHC:

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| ◆ New Year's Day   | ◆ Labor Day         |
| ◆ President's Day  | ◆ Veteran's Day     |
| ◆ Memorial Day     | ◆ Thanksgiving Day, |
| ◆ Independence Day | ◆ Christmas Day     |



***Wishing you all good health & happiness in 2015!***

Please e-mail any information for our next newsletter to Holly by April 15, 2015 ~Thanks!