

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Dimock Center Launches New Community Leadership Learning Network

ROXBURY, MA – On Wednesday, December 4th, The Dimock Center launched its first networking session for the new Dimock MAIN (Management to Accelerate INtegration) Leadership Learning Network. This initiative was generously sponsored by the **Boston’s Children’s Collaboration for Community Health** and supported by impactful partnerships through the **Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers** and the **Brandeis Heller School of Social Policy and Management**. The learning network was created to empower and educate senior community health center leaders with the necessary management strategies to enhance their behavioral health integration model within pediatric primary care.

“Behavioral health needs are often an important but hidden health need that people don’t feel empowered to bring up with a professional; or when they bring it up in primary care, primary care staff is at a loss as to how to provide them with the appropriate services,” said Dr. Holly Oh, Chief Medical Officer at The Dimock Center. “Dimock has developed a completely unique behavioral health integration model, where not only can these behavioral health needs be identified, but also where patients can access long term behavioral health services right in their primary care clinic. It is an innovative model that has worked so well for both patients and for staff at Dimock that we hope to share our learnings with other community health sites—proposing a new standard of care for behavioral health services within primary care”.



The kick-off session led by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Holly Oh and Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Dr. Michael Tang, welcomed leaders from the first cohort of five community health centers: Family Health Center of Worcester, Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center, Lynn Community Health Center, MGH Charlestown HealthCare Center and Upham’s Corner Health Center. The leaders engaged in dynamic discussions and were provided with the necessary tools and resources to support their future initiatives and growth advancements in behavioral health integration.

“Behavioral Health Integration has been a game-changer when our primary care clinic merged medical and specialty behavioral health care,” said Dr. Michael Tang, Chief Behavioral Health Officer at The Dimock Center. “We can now identify needs in a pediatrician's visit, conduct a warm-handoff with a social worker, provide a brief mental health intervention, have a full behavioral health intake, and access long-term therapy all within three weeks. This is made possible by using a managerial approach that directly leads to financial self-sustainability. The Dimock MAIN kick-off introduced this approach to our colleagues and we hope the lessons can help others across Massachusetts.”



For the next eighteen months, The Dimock MAIN Leadership Learning Network will continue working with senior executives within community health centers, using a toolkit of management approaches aiming to strengthen pediatric behavioral health integration. To learn more about The Dimock Main Leadership Network, or ways in which you would like to get involved, please visit www.dimock.org.

About The Dimock Center

Founded in 1862 as the New England Hospital for Women and Children, the Dimock Center heals and uplifts individuals, families, and our community. Operating on a nine-acre campus in Roxbury's Egleston Square, we serve people from Boston neighborhoods and 212 communities across the state through our Health and Community Care, Behavioral Health, and Child and Family Services. Nationally recognized as a model for the delivery of comprehensive health, education and human services in an urban community, we serve more than 19,000 people annually.

Media Contact

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