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DR. LISA DIBRIGIDA SPEAKS AT THE STATE HOUSE

On April 5, Governor Hassan's office invited Dr. Lisa DiBrigida to speak at the Executive Council Chambers for the signing of the bill to reauthorize the New Hampshire Health Protection Program, otherwise known as the Expanded Medicaid Program. The room was filled with state legislators, public health advocates, business leaders, news media, and well-wishers.



At the event Governor Hassan said the passage of the bill "reinforced the basic principle that everyone counts." She commented also that people "won't have to choose between health care and paying the rent, or between purchasing prescriptions and feeding their families."

Dr. DiBrigida represented the provider community at the podium, and she said it was "unbelievable and wonderful" to be there. She talked about how insurance coverage would provide increased opportunities for parents, young adults, and children to lead healthy, productive lives. And she said it would allow MCHC to expand services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment. She closed by saying, "Thank you for New Hampshire families, young adults, and children."

NINTH ANNUAL MORNING MATTERS BREAKFAST MAY 17, 2016 AT THE RADISSON HOTEL MANCHESTER

Improving systems of care for vulnerable children and families will be the focus of Child Health Services at MCHC's ninth annual **Morning Matters Breakfast**. To reserve a seat at Morning Matters 2016 or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mary at 603-296-9212 or mlittlejohn@mchc-nh.org.



Keynote speaker Emily Feinberg, ScD, CPNP

This year's keynote speaker is a pediatric nurse practitioner and public health expert from Boston -- **Emily Feinberg, ScD, CPNP**. Her presentation is entitled, "**Innovation in Care: An Intergenerational Model for the Pediatric Medical Home**." Dr. Feinberg will share stories about the journeys of families on the way to improved health. [Dr. Feinberg](#) is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University's School of Medicine and School of Public Health. She also works as a nurse practitioner at [DotHouse Health](#), a community health center in one of Boston's most diverse neighborhoods.

Dr. Feinberg's work aims to improve systems of care for vulnerable children and families. She collaborates with a broad range of organizations including the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Housing Authority, Boston's HealthNet health centers, and Health Law Advocates.

This year's emcee for Morning Matters will be **John Clayton** - Executive Director of the [Manchester Historic Association](#), former reporter and columnist for the Manchester Union Leader, and host of Chronicle.

To reserve a seat at Morning Matters 2016 or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mary Littlejohn at 603-296-9212 or mlittlejohn@mchc-nh.org.

KIM RYBCZYK, CASE MANAGER



Kim Rybczyk, case manager and coordinator for Project LAUNCH

Kim Rybczyk has been a social worker at Child Health Services since 1984 - first as an intern, transporter, and coordinator for the Preschool Dental Program (which she coordinated for the next 25 years); then as a family support worker; and today as a case manager. She remembers well the bio-psycho-social small-team approach to all care that was the vision of Dr. Selma Deitch. "We didn't just provide 'cure' medicine," Rybczyk says. "Most of the population we were serving was having a hard time at private doctors' offices that provided just medical care without any of the supports. The patients needed much more."

"When families came to Child Health Services they got help with everything they needed," says Rybczyk. "It wasn't just, 'My child has a sore ear.' We made sure people were aware of and connected with all the resources they were eligible for such as WIC and state benefits. We worked closely with churches and other organizations that helped with needs such as food and diapers as well as enrichment opportunities. We made a lot of home visits for support of the families. We provided lots of

transportation. We focused on prevention. We made sure we offered enrichment opportunities."

Today there is more need than ever in Manchester with greater populations of immigrants and refugees. Family support has become somewhat more specialized; case managers work on teams with medical providers, and now behavioral health consultants are available to help when mental health issues are identified. Rybczyk still maintains contact with some of her old families, and since October 2015 she coordinates Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health). Project LAUNCH, a federal initiative funded by SAMHSA (the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), is pioneering new ways to promote young child wellness. Project LAUNCH NH is working to ensure Manchester's agencies work together to provide children and families a great start. The goal is for all children to enter school with the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills they need to succeed. MCHC provides the Integrating Behavioral Health Strategy.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS PRESENT AT CONFERENCES



Kamal Basnet



Wanda Castillo

On Friday, April 15 Kamal Basnet, a Community Health Worker with the Manchester Community Schools Project at Gossler Park School, will speak at a panel discussion at Keene State College on welcoming resettled refugees and new immigrants in New Hampshire. For information on the panel, [click here](#). Basnet was recently featured on President Obama's White House blog for his role as an advocate for the Bhutanese community in Manchester. To see the piece, [click here](#).

Wanda Castillo will present at a Patient Navigator/Community Health Worker Conference in Norwood, MA on May 12. Her talk will describe two programs based at MCHC that are using Community Health Workers in unique ways -- the Manchester Community Schools Project and Project LAUNCH. For information about the workshop, [click here](#).

IN MEMORY OF FREDERICK W. GRAF, JR. June 4, 1948 - March 24, 2016

Child Health Services at MCHC was saddened to hear about the passing of Frederick W. Graf, Jr. who worked for many years as the chief financial officer at CHS.

Up until the time of his death, Fred Graf continued to support the Tricia Graf Literacy Fund at Child Health Services, and his donations were often in honor of people who had helped CHS in one way or another. In his obituary, his family suggested that in lieu of flowers people could make donations to Child Health Services.

For a nice remembrance in the Concord Monitor, [click here](#).

We are deeply grateful to Fred Graf for his hard work, generosity, and advocacy.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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- Granite United Way for supporting our behavioral health programming
- TD Charitable Foundation for the family literacy program
- Agnes M. Lindsay Trust for supporting the dental services referral program
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