As part of the National Health Center Week celebration the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services announced over $105 million in Health Center quality awards to 1,333 Health Centers. For its part, Community Health Clinic, Inc. received $57,871 in quality awards.

Community Health Clinic, Inc. was recognized with awards for the following quality measures:

1. $10,785 Clinical Quality Improvement - for demonstrating notable improvement in one or more Clinical Quality Measures (CQMs) from 2015-2016
2. $17,086 Health Center Quality Leaders - for achieving best overall clinical performance between all Health Centers
3. $30,000 for achieving PCMH level 3 recognition.

In announcing the awards HHS Secretary Price said, “Americans deserve a healthcare system that’s affordable, accessible, of the highest quality, with ample choices, driven by world-leading innovations, and responsive to the needs of the individual patient. Supporting Health Centers across the country helps achieve that mission.”

HRSA Administrator Dr. George Sigounas added, “Today’s awards will help health centers to provide their communities with high quality, affordable primary care. Quality care remains a critical trait of the Health Center Program, especially because Health Centers are treating more patients than ever before.”

(Courtesy U.S. HHS-hhs.gov)
HRSA Releases New Health Center Data

The Health Services and Resources Administration (HRSA) released new data in August compiled from Health Centers through its Uniform Data System (UDS) reporting, providing an update on the primary care services being provided to patients. In 2016, nearly 26 million people (approximately 1 in 12 U.S. residents) relied on a HRSA-funded Health Center for affordable, accessible primary health care including:

- One in three people living in poverty
- One in ten U.S. children 17 years and younger
- One in six U.S. rural residents
- More than 330,000 U.S. veterans

For more than 50 years, health centers have delivered affordable, accessible, quality and cost-effective primary health care services to patients. Today, nearly 1400 Health Centers operate more than 10,400 service delivery sites nationwide. (Courtesy U.S. HHS-hhs.gov)

National Health Center Week Open House

As part of our National Health Center Week celebration, August 14th –18th, 2017 Community Health Clinic welcomed a visit by U.S. Congressman Mike Doyle to our Thursday Open House. Congressman Doyle spent about one hour with us and was able to meet at length with our board and community members.

One of the most important issues discussed with the Congressman was the looming Health Center Funding Cliff deadline of September 30. New Kensington Mayor, Thomas Guzzo also attended the event and presented the clinic with a proclamation declaring the week of August 14, 2017-National Health Center Week in New Kensington.
COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC NEWS IN BRIEF

SLIDING FEE SCALE
Community Health Clinic uses a sliding-fee scale to make health care more affordable for our uninsured and underinsured patients. The slide applies to patients with income up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Line. A doctor visit starts at $15.00, a dental visit at $20.00 and behavioral health visit at $5.00.

Please call 724.335.3334 to schedule an appointment.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC IS ON THE INTERNET
Please visit us at:
- www.communityhealthclinic.org
- www.facebook.com/communityhealth.org

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES
Community Health Clinic welcomes new employees Julie Fitch and Sherri Hilty.

Julie is a medical biller at our New Kensington Clinic and Sherri is the office manager at our Vandergrift Clinic. Welcome aboard!

TIME TO GET YOUR FLU SHOT.
Fall is soon upon us—that means it is time to get your yearly flu shot. Adult vaccines are available now. Protect yourself from the misery of the flu.

Call 724.335.3334 to schedule your flu shot today!

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC DENTAL SERVICES
In addition to our regular dental services Community Health Clinic offers dental laboratory services. These include:
- Complete Dentures—upper and lower
- Partial Dentures
- Flippers (temporary partial denture)
- Crowns
- Bridges

Although these are not offered with our dental sliding fee, they are competitively priced. We do offer a payment program. Medical Assistance requires a benefit limit exemption.

Of course, we continue to offer our basic services such as:
- Exams
- Cleanings
- X-rays
- Fillings and extractions

We take almost all dental insurance, as well.

To schedule an appointment call 724.335.2862.
**ADVOCACY - YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

**HEALTH CENTER FUNDING CLIFF LOOMS—YOUR HELP IS NEEDED URGENTLY**

Call Congress Today!!

On September 30, the Community Health Centers Fund will expire – this fund currently accounts for 70% of our federal funding for health centers, and ALL funding for critical workforce programs: the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Centers program.

A Continuing Resolution does NOT automatically extend this funding – we need Congress to specifically act to extend it.

Health Centers cannot afford the uncertainty that missing this deadline (or a short-term extension) will bring. They need to be able to recruit providers, secure bank loans, and plan.

**Impact**

Nationally, HHS estimates that the CHC Funding Cliff will lead to the closure of some 2,800 Health Center locations, elimination of more than 50,000 jobs, and most importantly, a loss of access to care for some 9 million patients.

This level of impact doesn’t only hurt us – it will end up hurting our entire community, our local economy and driving up the cost of health care as more patients turn to the emergency room for access.

**Please Contact Your Members of Congress**

Please ask your members of Congress to **before September 30th**, extend the Health Centers Fund for **at least five years**, with **at least current funding levels** in place.

Taking this action now is critical to our ability to plan, to recruit, and to continue offering care to our community without disruption.

**Call your Members of Congress.**

Dial 1-(866) 456-3949 and enter your zip code to be connected to your Members of Congress and urge them to fix the Health Center Funding Cliff before September 30th.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

1. **Become a health center advocate**—you can sign-up at www.hcadvocacy.org or text HCADVOCATE to 52886
2. **Let your Representatives and Senators**
3. **Share this with friends.**
Changes are Coming Soon for Dual-Eligibles in PA.

Dual-eligibles are people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Right now dual-eligibles receive their Medicaid (Medical Assistance) benefits by using an Access card.

Beginning in January 2018 anyone who is a dual-eligible in Southwest PA will be required to participate in a Community Health Choices Managed Care Organization (MCO). The Access card will no longer be used to supplement the Medicare Insurance.

Community Health Choices (CHC) is Pennsylvania’s new mandatory managed care program for dual-eligible individuals and individuals with physical disabilities.

Individuals who are dual-eligible will need to pick one of three MCOs to enroll in. The 3 MCOs in Southwest PA are:

- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Pennsylvania Health and Wellness (Centene)
- UPMC for You

All dual-eligibles will receive the Adult Benefit Package, these benefits include:

- CRNP services
- Chiropractic Services
- Clinic Services
- Crisis Services
- Dental care services
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Emergency Room/ Ambulance
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Home health services
- Hospice services
- Hospital services
- Laboratory services
- Maternity
- Medical supplies
- Nursing facility services
- Physician services
- Podiatrist
- Prescriptions
- Prosthetics and orthotics
- Radiology
- Therapy (physical, occupational, speech, habilitative, and rehabilitative)
- Tobacco Cessation
- And more

Community Health Clinic will be enrolled with all 3 Health Choices MCOs. We will be glad to continue to provide service to all dual-eligibles through both Medicare and the new Community Health Choices MCOs.
National Health Center Week Proclamations

Community of Westmoreland

Proclamation
National Health Center Week
August 13 - 19, 2017

WHEREAS, for many 58 years, our community has relied on the Community Health Clinic of Westmoreland County, Inc. for high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care and have appreciated the clinic’s broad spectrum of services, making it a cornerstone of our community;

WHEREAS, the clinic provides health care services to family members of all ages, providing primary, preventive, and specialty care services, as well as educational programs and health promotion activities; and

WHEREAS, the clinic is committed to providing quality care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay, making it a vital resource for our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Julie A. Hines, Mayor of Westmoreland County, do hereby proclaim August 13 through August 19, 2017, as National Health Center Week and commend the Clinic for its dedication to providing comprehensive health care services to our community.

County of Westmoreland

Proclamation
National Health Center Week
August 13 - 19, 2017

WHEREAS, for many 58 years, our community has relied on the Community Health Clinic of Westmoreland County, Inc. for high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care and have appreciated the clinic’s broad spectrum of services, making it a cornerstone of our community;

WHEREAS, the clinic provides health care services to family members of all ages, providing primary, preventive, and specialty care services, as well as educational programs and health promotion activities; and

WHEREAS, the clinic is committed to providing quality care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay, making it a vital resource for our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Julie A. Hines, Mayor of Westmoreland County, do hereby proclaim August 13 through August 19, 2017, as National Health Center Week and commend the Clinic for its dedication to providing comprehensive health care services to our community.

New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Proclamation
National Health Center Week, 2017

WHEREAS, for many 58 years, our community has relied on the Community Health Clinic of Westmoreland County, Inc. for high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care and have appreciated the clinic’s broad spectrum of services, making it a cornerstone of our community;

WHEREAS, the clinic provides health care services to family members of all ages, providing primary, preventive, and specialty care services, as well as educational programs and health promotion activities; and

WHEREAS, the clinic is committed to providing quality care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay, making it a vital resource for our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Mancino, Mayor of New Kensington, do hereby proclaim August 13 through August 19, 2017, as National Health Center Week and commend the Clinic for its dedication to providing comprehensive health care services to our community.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The House of Representatives

Citation

WHEREAS, for many 58 years, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has relied on the Community Health Clinic of Westmoreland County, Inc. for high-quality, affordable, comprehensive primary and preventive health care and have appreciated the clinic’s broad spectrum of services, making it a cornerstone of our community;

WHEREAS, the clinic provides health care services to family members of all ages, providing primary, preventive, and specialty care services, as well as educational programs and health promotion activities; and

WHEREAS, the clinic is committed to providing quality care to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay, making it a vital resource for our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jake Corman, Speaker of the House of Representatives, do hereby commend the Clinic for its dedication to providing comprehensive health care services to our community.
**Health Tips - Childhood Vaccines**

**Vaccinating on Time is Important for Disease Protection**

*National Immunization Awareness Month is a reminder that children need vaccines right from the start.*

Parents agree that feeding and sleep schedules are important to help keep their children healthy. The same goes for childhood immunizations. Vaccinating children on time is the best way to protect them from 14 serious and potentially deadly diseases before their second birthday.

“The recommended immunization schedule is designed to offer protection early in life,” said Dr. Candice Robinson, a pediatrician at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “when babies are vulnerable and before it’s likely they will be exposed to diseases.”

Public health and medical experts base their vaccine recommendations on many factors. They study information about diseases and vaccines very carefully to decide which vaccines kids should get and when they should get them for best protection.

Although the number of vaccines a child needs in the first two years of life may seem like a lot, doctors know a great deal about the human immune system, and they know that a healthy baby’s immune system can handle getting all vaccines when they are recommended.

Dr. Robinson cautions against parents delaying vaccination. “There is no known benefit to delaying vaccination. In fact, it puts babies at risk of getting sick because they are left vulnerable to catch serious diseases during the time they are not protected by vaccines.”

When parents choose not to vaccinate or to follow a delayed schedule, children are left unprotected against diseases that still circulate in this country, like measles and whooping cough.

The United States experienced a record number of measles cases during 2014, with 667 cases from 27 states reported to CDC's NCIRD. This was the greatest number of cases in the U.S. since measles was eliminated in 2000. Staying on track with the immunization schedule ensures that children have the best protection against diseases like these by age 2.

Parents who are concerned about the number of shots given at one time can reduce the number given at a visit by using the flexibility built into the recommended immunization schedule. For example, the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine can be given at 6 through 18 months of age. Parents can work with their child’s health care professional to have their child get this dose at any time during that age range.

“I make sure my kids are vaccinated on time,” said Dr. Amanda Cohn, a pediatrician at CDC. “Getting children all the vaccines they need by age 2 is one of the best things parents can do to help keep their children safe and healthy.”

If you have questions about the childhood immunization schedule, talk with your child’s doctor or nurse. For more information about vaccines, go to www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents.

![National Immunization Awareness Month: Vaccines give parents the safe, proven power to protect their children.](image-url)

*Courtesy: National Public Health Information Coalition*
Adults need vaccines, too!

VACCINES are not just for kids.

IMMUNIZATION PROTECTS ALL OF US: Don’t Wait. Vaccinate!

In the United States, vaccines have greatly reduced infectious diseases that once routinely harmed or killed many infants, children, and adults. However, the viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable disease still exist and can cause illness in people who are not protected by vaccines. Every year, tens of thousands of Americans still suffer serious health problems, are hospitalized, and even die from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines. Protect your health and the health of your family. Make sure you and your loved ones are up to date on recommended vaccines.

Here’s why you shouldn’t wait:

• Many vaccine-preventable diseases are still common in the U.S.
• Those that are not common here are still found in other parts of the world, and can still be a threat.
• Some of these diseases are very contagious.
• Any of these diseases could be serious – even for healthy people.

• Certain people may be at higher risk for getting some diseases or having more serious illness if they were to get sick, like young children, older adults, and those with health conditions.

Vaccines are our best protection against a number of serious, and sometimes deadly, diseases. Every year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other medical experts update vaccine recommendations for children, teens, and adults based on the latest research and evidence-based science on vaccine safety, effectiveness, and patterns of vaccine-preventable diseases.

You have the power to protect yourself and the ones you love. Talk to your health care professional about which vaccines are right for you and your family.

Getting Vaccinated

Most private health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them. Medicare and Medicaid also cover a number of vaccines for adults. Vaccines are available at private doctor offices, as well as other convenient locations such as pharmacies, workplaces, community health clinics, and health departments.

To learn more about vaccines and take a quick quiz to find out which vaccines you may need, visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults

Courtesy: National Public Health Information Coalition
COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

CHC MEDICAL STAFF

Charmaine Batac, MD Medical Director

Ronald Proctor, MD

Adolfo Bagnarello, MD Vandergrift

Allison Kliber, MD

Lynn Vermeulen, CHC

SERVICES

Our Services Include:

- General Medical Services for Adult and Pediatric Patients
- General Dentistry
- CDL License Physicals
- Laboratory Testing
- Psychiatric Services
- Behavioral Health Services including counseling with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Case Management
- Medical Case Management
- High Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Asthma, Diabetes, COPD services
- Immunizations
- STD Testing and Treatment
- Gynecological Services and Pap Testing
- Family Planning (Birth Control)
- Referral Services
- Diet and Nutrition Services
- Suboxone Treatment

We have reserved a seat just for you! Call 724.335.3334 (New Ken) or 724.567.5671 (Vandergrift) to schedule your appointment today!

siblings, they can be right with the parents during exams and treatment.

We take all insurances including Highmark and UPMC. Our physicians have admitting privileges at both Allegheny Health Network and UPMC facilities. We provide a sliding fee scale for those without insurance.
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Pittsburgh Regional Office
Veterans Benefit Clinic
Monday September 18, 2017
10:00AM-2:00PM
Community Health Clinic
179 Columbia Avenue
Vandergrift

A National Service Officer will be onsite to assist veterans, their spouses and dependents for claims for compensation, pension, survivors benefits, death benefits, accessing military records and discharge upgrades.
For more information call: 724.889.2783
Available to residents of all counties.
Westmoreland County Residents Only

Need Help Buying Food?
Free Assistance Applying for SNAP
Tuesday, September 19, 2017
12:00PM-4:00PM
Community Health Clinic
179 Columbia Avenue
Vandergrift

Please bring to meeting
- Identification information for all family members
- Household Income Statements
- Summary of typical household expenses
- Estimate of household financial resources
Contact Lauren at: 724.468.8660x28

Now is the time to get tested!
Free Hepatitis C Screening!
The Pennsylvania Department of Health will be conducting FREE Hepatitis C screenings, every Third Tuesday at Community Health Clinic the next screening is:
Tuesday, September 19
10:00AM-1:30 PM
Community Health Clinic
943 Fourth Avenue
New Kensington
No Appointment Necessary
Call 724.335.3334

Some Risk Factors for Hepatitis C
- Past and current injection drug users, including those who only injected once.
- Recipients of donated blood, blood products or organs prior to 1992 and people who received a blood product for clotting prior to 1987
- People who received body piercings or tattoos done with non-sterile instruments
- Healthcare workers injured by needle sticks
- People who had sexual contact with a person with Hepatitis C
- Baby Boomers born between 1945-1965

Results from screening are available in 20 minutes and those with positive results will be provided with referral to confirmatory testing, counseling and connected to care programs.
OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT

SHORTENED TIME FRAME FOR HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE
OPEN ENROLLMENT—NOVEMBER 1, 2017-DECEMBER 15, 2017

Some Tips for a Successful Enrollment or Re-enrollment Experience.

There has been much discussion about the fate of the Healthcare Marketplace. As of this date the ACA is still law and still in force and the Healthcare Marketplace is continuing as normal.

This year the Marketplace Open Enrollment period has been shortened from 90 days to 45 days, it will be from November 1, 2017 till December 15, 2017. All plans selected will start on January 1, 2018.

Remember the first payment must be made prior to the first day of coverage so that the insurance will go into effect. Failure to make a timely first payment may result in cancellation of the policy.

The new plans most likely will not be available for preview until November 1st.

In order to speed the enrollment process there are some steps you can take to prepare for open enrollment.

- Make sure you have filed your 2016 Federal Income Tax and reconciled any APTC (tax credits) you have received.
- Estimate your 2018 income as accurately as possible
- Make sure you include all sources of taxable income, including:
  - Wages
  - The full amount of Social Security
  - Investment income
  - Rental income
- Make sure you can log in to your Marketplace account.
- Analyze your healthcare needs
  - Is your current plan working well for you?
  - Did you end up paying back excess APTC?
  - Are you anticipating any medical procedures?

Remember Free Help is available. Community Health Clinic has a Certified Application Counselor (CAC) available to help you explore your health coverage options and enroll in any programs you qualify for. The CAC can help you prepare for this year’s Open Enrollment. Please call 724.889.2783 to learn more or to schedule an appointment.
Community Health Clinic, Inc.

New Kensington Office
943 Fourth Avenue
New Kensington, PA 15068
Medical: 724.335.3334
Dental: 724.335.2862

Vandergrift Office
179 Columbia Avenue
Vandergrift, PA 15690
Medical: 724.567.5671

www.communityhealthclinic.org