Dear friends,

Summer flew by -- but it was very nice seeing so many of you out in our communities and at CHA events! I wanted to take a moment to update everyone that in June CHA's Board of Trustees voted to adopt our Healthy Somerville 2022 plan, a strategy to meet the evolving health needs of the community. The plan includes increased primary care access and a proposed new health center in Union Square, the conversion of the Somerville Hospital Emergency Department into an urgent care center, renovation of the Central Street Care Center, a new pain management center at the Somerville Hospital and a Teen Health Center at the new Somerville High School. We are committed to continued collaboration with the City of Somerville and all our surrounding communities to support a wellness agenda and look forward to hearing from all of you on how we can best implement these changes. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time to discuss this plan further or to provide input -- we greatly appreciate your feedback and commitment to CHA and the patients and communities we serve!

Related to our wellness plan, CHA has also been working to enhance patient safety and recently supported efforts by our state legislators for this purpose. Just last week, our Interim CEO Assaad Sayah, MD, joined Peter DeMarco, the husband of Laura Levis, and State Representative Christine Barber and State Senator Pat Jehlen at a State House hearing regarding their bill commonly known as "Laura's Law" and entitled "An Act Ensuring Safe Patient Access to Emergency Care." Dr. Sayah testified and shared the work that our staff and providers have accomplished over the past three years, primarily related to the need for improved facilities and wayfinding, which are one piece of a complex puzzle to promote emergency care access at hospitals.

At CHA, we are committed to ongoing improvement and ensuring that all patients get the best possible care. We remain a mission-driven institution that welcomes and cares for everyone, and we cannot thank you enough for your continued collaboration and support. Have a wonderful autumn and we look forward to seeing you!

Warm Regards,

Mary

Mary Cassesso
President, CHA Foundation & Chief Community Officer
CHA, was honored with the 2019 Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

**CHA in the News**

**CNN** highlighted a [JAMA Pediatrics study](https://www.jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2769082) led by Leah Zallman, MD, MPH, primary care physician and director of research at the Institute for Community Health, which asserts that millions of children could lose health and nutrition benefits because of the public charge rule.

The [Harvard Gazette](https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2019/10/an-extensive-q-a-with-pieter-cohen-md/) conducted an extensive Q&A with Pieter Cohen, MD, a leading expert on supplements and a physician at Somerville Hospital Primary Care, on the potential risks of marijuana and related products including CBD.


**NPR** showcased a [JAMA Internal Medicine study](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2769057) from Laura Hawks, MD, a general medicine research fellow, which found that one in 16 U.S. girls and women, first-time sexual encounters involved some type of force or coercion.

**NBC News** posted a commentary from psychiatrist Wes Boyd, MD, PhD, on the challenges patients face to gain access to mental health care, including for those who have health

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**See, Test & Treat - October 26, 2019**

CHA was selected for the second year by the College of American Pathologists Foundation to offer See, Test & Treat. It will be held on October 26, 2019 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at CHA Cambridge Hospital. The day is designed for uninsured or underinsured people to gain access to life-saving screenings. These include a pelvic exam, clinical breast exam, Pap test, HPV test and a screening mammogram. Same-day results will be provided for most screenings in addition to a health fair, activities for children, healthy snacks and educational materials. If you would like to be a part of this important effort to provide care to people who otherwise can’t access it, please contact Sarah Primeau, community relations project manager.

**Channel 5/WCVB-TV Highlights Revere Mobile Market**

CHA, in partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank, Tufts Health Plan and Good Measures, hosted Mobile Markets in Revere on July 13, August 3 and September 8. Channel 5, Boston's local ABC TV affiliate, showcased the market in a [segment on childhood hunger](https://www.channel5tv.com/) that featured an interview with Revere Care Center physician Christopher Simons, MD.
Golf Invitational Raises $137,000 to Benefit Patients

CHA held its 16th annual Golf Invitational on September 16 and raised more than $137K to support CHA and its community health mission. Proceeds from the event will benefit Patient Experience of Care initiatives at CHA's Cambridge, Somerville and Everett Hospitals.

CHA Joins Mass. Attorney General to Protect the ACA

On July 9, CHA joined Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, advocates, patients and other providers to publicly oppose a lawsuit calling for the dismantling of the Affordable Care Act. Laura Sullivan, MD, chief of family medicine and primary care physician at CHA Malden Family Medicine Center, represented CHA with compelling remarks at a press conference outside of the Moakley Courthouse in Boston.
Photos - CHA in the Community

CHA Celebrates Pride Month

On June 3, CHA staff and community members gathered at each of our hospitals to celebrate our Inaugural Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony. Executive leaders spoke briefly about LGBTQ history, the flag’s symbolism in the community and CHA’s commitment to its LGBTQ patients and staff. Then, on June 8, over 40 CHA staff, friends and family, marched in the biggest Boston Pride Parade to date.

Revere Runs 5K

CHA helped sponsor the Revere Runs 5K, an annual road race in Revere that raises money for scholarships for local students in early June. Staff from the CHA Revere Care Center had a table at the associated health fair.

TEASA Closing Celebration
TEASA, an initiative of the Community Health Improvement Department, held its closing celebration at the enVision Hotel in Everett with members of the community, including Representative Joe McGonagle.

CHA Distributes School Supplies with Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone
On August 20, CHA teamed with Tufts Health Plan, the Somerville Housing Authority and Mayor Joseph Curtatone to distribute free backpacks and school supplies to children and teens who live at the Mystic and Clarendon housing developments.
CHA Honored for Support of Innovative Employment Program
CHA was honored for providing internships and job opportunities through Project Search and the Employment NOW Initiative by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

Community Health Improvement Summer Interns
Over the summer, the Community Health Improvement Department hosted six Youth Mental Health and Wellness Interns.

Italian Feast in East Cambridge
On September 6-8, volunteers and staff from CHA were at the 94th Annual Italian Feast in East Cambridge passing out information about resources and services available at CHA. An extra thanks to CHA Patient Advisory Council Members who volunteered - pictured to the right.
National Night Out in Somerville
CHA staff were busy in and around Somerville in August. Pictured is Somerville City Councilor Matt McLaughlin, intern Mihir John, Lisa Brukilacchio, CHI, and Alex Pirie at National Night Out at Foss Park.

Brazilian Independence Day Festival in Boston
CHA was a sponsor of the Brazilian Independence Day Festival in Boston on September 8 at Herter Park.

Community Health Workers Graduate
CHA's Community Health Improvement Learning Institute graduated a vibrant cohort of 21 community health workers from its training program in June.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
On June 19, CHA staff participated in a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.

Students Visit CHA Somerville Hospital
Students from the Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences visited CHA Somerville Hospital on June 20 as part of a health careers development program in collaboration with the Somerville Community Corporation's First Source jobs initiative.
Immigrant Solidarity
On June 24 - 28, staff across CHA wore butterfly lapel pins to symbolize unity and solidarity with immigrants.

Pre-intern Orientation Health Equity Summit
In early June, the CHA Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy hosted the 2nd Annual Boston Pre-intern Orientation Health Equity Summit. More than 55 incoming and current residents from CHA, MGH, BWH, BIDMC, BMC, Tufts and Children's Hospital signed up for a workshop before starting their intern orientations.

Cable Access Show Highlights Somerville Seniors
On July 28, Roberta Robinson, director of geriatric outreach at CHA, hosted a live taping of "Legacies: An Interesting Journey Through the Lives of Elders" at Assembly Row in Somerville.
Aging Wisely Everett Garden Club's visit to "Italy in Everett"
On August 30, members of the Aging Wisely Everett Garden Club took their annual lunch tour of Rosa DeMaria's garden - what the members call "a little piece of Italy in Everett."

Project Citizenship with Congresswoman Clark
Mary Cassesso attended a Project Citizenship event with special guest Congresswoman Katherine Clark on August 29. Congresswoman Clark provided an update about legislation and policies that are affecting the path to U.S. citizenship.
Somerville Health Foundation Grantee Reception
On September 11, community and city leaders, including Doug Kress, and CHA administrators, Assaad Sayah, MD, Gerry McCue, Mary Cassesso, Lisa Brukilacchio and Kathy Betts, gathered at Somerville Hospital for a reception to honor the recipients of funding from the 2019 cycle of the Somerville Health Foundation. Breakthrough Greater Boston, CAFE-H with the Welcome Project, Forsyth Kids, Friends of the Community Growing Center, Neighborhood Children's Foundation/Beautiful Stuff, Neighborhood Counseling and Community Services, RESPOND and the Somerville Food Security Coalition/Somerville Homeless Coalition received funding.