



Health Center Leader Inducted into the Grassroots Hall of Fame

Anchorage, AK – Ellen Adlam, a Board Member of Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS), in Soldotna, Alaska, and the first Consumer Representative to be elected to the Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) board in Alaska, has been inducted into the Grassroots Hall of Fame for the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). Grassroots Hall of Fame members have made lasting contributions to insuring the creation, survival and strength of Community Health Centers (CHC) and the Health Center Movement through their dedicated and tireless efforts over many years. Ms. Adlam was presented the Hall of Fame Award at the 2016 NACHC Policy and Issues Forum in Washington, D.C., an event attended by more than 2,000 health center leaders from around the country.

“Ellen has been a passionate advocate on behalf of health centers throughout her 15 years involved in our system, and the movement would not be what it is today without her dedication, skilled leadership and tireless energy,” said Tom Van Coverden, President and CEO of NACHC. “She has been on Capitol Hill many times carrying the health center message, and rallying public support for funding. We’re deeply appreciative of her commitment, hard work and leadership in advocacy.”

Ms. Adlam was singled out for the NACHC award because of her dedicated and committed advocacy on behalf of health centers and the patients they serve. The centerpiece of her efforts has been educating elected officials at the local, state and national level about value of health centers as a wise public investment. “Advocating for, and being part of, the healthcare movement on the local, state, and national level is a privilege that I am honored to undertake, said Ms. Adlam in remarks posted on the Campaign For America’s Health Centers blog.

Peninsula Community Health Services is part of a national network of Community Health Centers. Health centers started more than fifty years ago as a daring experiment in President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty campaign, which led to the opening of the nation’s first health centers in Boston and the Mississippi Delta. Today, that pilot project has evolved into the largest and most successful primary healthcare system in the United States. Ellen especially enjoys “telling the story of the CHC movement over the past 50 years”, and looks forward “to all we can accomplish in the next 50”. The 29 Alaskan Community Health Center organizations operate about 170 clinic sites to provide medical, dental, & behavioral health serves to over 100,000 Alaskans each year.

Health centers also save the U.S. healthcare system more than \$24 billion every year in reduced overall costs from preventable hospitalizations and avoidable emergency room visits. To learn more about the mission and accomplishments of health centers please visit www.alaskapca.org

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