

News from Greene County Family Planning

Due to the recent retirement of a key member of the team at Greene County Family Planning there has been a change in the leadership of our program. Barbara Caldara, N.P., former Program Administrator, retired effective May 29, 2009. Barbara devoted many years to clinical and administrative tasks here. Her friendly smile and sense of humor as well as her highly skilled, sensitive, and compassionate care made a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of our clients. Barbara was highly respected by both her colleagues and our clients and will most certainly be missed.

Congratulations are due to Laura Churchill, MS, FNP, as she was promoted to the position of Family Planning Program Administrator effective June 1, 2009. Laura joined Greene County Family Planning in 2004 as a fulltime Family Nurse Practitioner. Her educational background includes a license to practice as a Registered Nurse, a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of Maryland, a Masters in Science degree and certificate as a Nurse Practitioner from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and is board certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Laura proved to be an exemplary member of our team and was named Greene County Employee of the year for 2008. Laura brought a wealth of experience with her when she joined our program. She has been a registered nurse for 20 years, 14 of them as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Her prior work experience includes employment as a visiting nurse with the Albany Visiting Nurses, as a maternal child health nurse with the Albany County Health Department, as a nurse practitioner in a private practice as well as at a community health center in central New York. Laura has devoted most of her working years to improving the health of underserved populations. Her work at Greene County Family Planning continues that tradition as Greene County Family Planning provides care to over 1000 clients, including men, women and teens many of whom are low income. The health care that our clients receive here is often the only health care that they do receive.

The staff at Greene County Family Planning feels fortunate to have Laura, a talented, hard working, smart, and congenial woman, to work with us as we all continue to strive to reach the goals of the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Women's Health Family Planning Program which are to provide accessible reproductive health services essential to meeting key public health objectives including: reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for abortions; curbing the spread of sexually transmitted infections including HIV; improving birth outcomes, and facilitating the early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancers. Please welcome Laura as she takes on this demanding and challenging role!

And speaking of talented, hard working, smart, and congenial women... Marianne Powers, MSN, FNP joined our staff as a full time Family Nurse Practitioner in August of 2008. Marianne has been a registered nurse since 1982 with the last 4 years as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She received her Master's and Bachelor's Degrees in Nursing and her certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Russell Sage College. She is also board

certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Her clinical work experience includes many years in critical care nursing at Columbia Memorial Hospital and in private practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Marianne got right to work when she joined us last year and has fit in nicely with both the rest of the team and our clients. Her kind, caring manner is appreciated by our clients. We all feel lucky to have Marianne as part of our team.

The clients who receive care at Greene County Family Planning complete an evaluation at the end of their visit. Comments are posted anonymously on our website under “What our clients say about us...” at www.greencountyfamilyplanning.com. Check it out and you will see that all of our clinic staff who interact with our clients, including our talented nurse practitioners Laura and Marianne, our registered nurse, Lauren Clark, our family planning aide, Kayla Eacott and our Senior Family Planning Aides, Mary Anne Zwoboda and Margaret Schepp as well as our Medical Biller/Senior Family Planning Aide Ellie Schepp, have gotten rave reviews from our clients.

We are also pleased to announce that Cathy Start, Health Educator, has been chosen by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Planning to participate in the 8th Male Health Educator Training Institute. According to the Department of Health and Human Services “this training is only available to selected individuals. Participation should be considered a privilege and represents that a great deal of trust has been placed upon you by your agency and regional office.” Individuals must first have been nominated by their agency supervisor and then by their state health department. In order to apply for this training institute applicants had to be health educators in Title X-funded programs providing direct health education to males. To qualify as direct providers, health educators must spend at least 50% of their time providing health education to male clients. Health education, as well as clinical services, for males has always been a priority at Greene County Family Planning. Cathy provides health education to both females and males in both school and community settings. The training will take place in July in Dearborn, Michigan. The week long training is intensive and topics to be covered include Fatherhood, Sexual Development and Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Relationships and Communication, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexuality, Cultural Competence, and Health Educator Skills, Knowledge and Application. All costs for this conference are being paid for by our NYS DOH Bureau of Women’s Health Family Planning Program grant and Cicatelli Training Associates. Cathy greatly appreciates this wonderful opportunity. She would like to thank her former supervisor, Barbara Caldara for nominating her and the Greene County Legislature for their approval of her attendance at this conference. Cathy sends a special thank you to Legislator Prest for offering the resolution authorizing her attendance and Legislator Valentine for seconding the resolution.