



**Celebrating
Rhode Island's
Community Health Centers
Beacon Award Winners
2026**



Thursday, August 6, 2026
Roger Williams Casino
1000 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island



Rhode Island's Community Health Centers

Blackstone Valley Community Health Care
Comprehensive Community Action Program

East Bay Community Action Program

Providence Community Health Centers

Thundermist Health Center

Tri-County Community Action Agency

WellOne Primary Medical & Dental Care

Wood River Health

National Health Center Week

During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the commitment and passion of Community Health Center staff, board members, and supporters who make it possible to provide quality, comprehensive healthcare services to more than 220,000 Rhode Islanders, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Beacon Award

Each year, the Rhode Island Health Center Association honors employees who exemplify the health center mission.

These employees serve as beacons of strength, service, and care in the workplace and in their communities.



PROGRAM

BEACON AWARDS

5:30 pm Greetings

Elena Nicolella, CEO & President
Rhode Island Health Center Association

5:35 pm Proclamation

National Health Center Week

Governor Dan McKee
Rhode Island

5:40 pm Special Guests Remarks

**5:50 pm Presentation of
Health Center Beacon Awards**

6:30 pm Closing Remarks

MEET THE 2026 AWARDEES



Scott Hewitt
Associate Director of Integrated Care



Scott consistently goes above and beyond in his role, providing accessible, patient-centered services to all individuals, regardless of background or circumstance. Scott exemplifies the values of leadership, equity, and service that are foundational to community health. His impact extends beyond daily operations, shaping the future of the workforce while improving patient outcomes and access to care.



Rodrigo Nardi, MD
Chief Behavioral Health Officer

Dr. Rod Nardi exemplifies our health center's values through unwavering compassion, leadership, and dedication. As Chief Behavioral Health Officer and psychiatrist, he consistently goes above and beyond—supporting staff, fostering a positive culture, and willingly seeing more patients than required. He is exceptional at collaborating with our medical team, case managers, peer support specialists, and clinicians to ensure a person-centered approach and drive meaningful improvements in patients' quality of life. His commitment strengthens our mission and inspires excellence across our organization.



**east bay community
action program**

Kaylee Butler
Practice Manager



Kaylee Butler reflects the values of East Bay Community Action Program through her compassionate leadership, steady presence, and unwavering commitment to patients and staff. She is consistently solution-oriented, always willing to step in where needed, and approaches challenges with professionalism, collaboration, and empathy. From strengthening front-end workflows and supporting the successful launch of the Customer Care Center to onboarding staff and expanding access initiatives, Kaylee continually puts patients first while fostering trust, teamwork, and operational excellence across our health centers.



Matthew Blackey
Director, Dental & Specialty Services

Matt oversees Adult and Pediatric Dental, Optometry, Asthma & Allergy, and Rheumatology, leading with a strong commitment to quality and patient care. He helped grow PCHC's Dental program from its infancy to more than 32,000 visits in 2025. Known for his compassion and support, colleagues praise his dedication to his team and patients alike. Beyond his core responsibilities, Matt actively contributes to organizational and community-focused initiatives that advance access to care. His guiding philosophy is simple: "Everyone deserves a smile."



Gabriel Pleasants, MD
Physician



Dr. Gabe Pleasants, a family medicine physician, practices in Woonsocket, specializing in street medicine, including Rolling Thunder, the mobile medical unit, the shower unit, and Medical Respite, serving vulnerable unhoused patients. His kindness, compassion, and clinical excellence are infused in all he does. He has always practiced in RI community health centers and precepts Family Nurse Practitioner fellows.



Renay Agli
Director, Billing and Credentialing

Tri-County is proud to recognize Renay Agli, Director of Billing and Credentialing, as our 2026 Beacon Award recipient. Renay has been a tireless advocate for patients, working behind the scenes to ensure that financial barriers never stand in the way of quality health care. Through her leadership, she has strengthened relationships with payers, improved collection processes, and helped ensure long-term sustainability of our health center while always keeping the needs of patients at the center of her work. We are grateful for Renay's commitment and unwavering dedication to the people and communities we serve.



Donna Nadeau
Foster Office Manager



Since joining WellOne in 1990, Donna Nadeau has served our patients in a variety of roles. For the past several years, she has served as the Office Manager of WellOne's Foster office, helping to ensure continued access to locally available health care and related services for town residents. Donna retired on July 1, 2026, as WellOne's longest-tenured employee.



WOOD RIVER HEALTH
Caring for Our Community Since 1976

Sharon McGuinness
Peer Recovery Support Specialist

Sharon McGuinness exemplifies the values of Wood River Health through her unwavering commitment to patient-centered care as a Peer Recovery Support Specialist. She consistently goes above and beyond to support patients and colleagues, fostering a respectful, collaborative environment while strengthening community connection and improving outcomes for those we serve.

Congratulations to all the 2026 Beacon Awardees!





www.rihca.org