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For Immediate Release

Contact: Richelle Andrae
608-571-6168

Access Community Health Center Substance Use Disorder Treatment Expansion Project Receives WPHCA's Annual Performance Excellence Award

Madison, WI - Today, the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association (WPHCA), the statewide association for Community Health Centers, celebrates the team from [Access Community Health Centers](#) as the 2023 recipient of WPHCA's Performance Excellence Award. Each year, WPHCA recognizes a team of Community Health Center staff who are working towards achieving the quadruple aim: improving the health of patients, patient experience, cost-effectiveness, and/or staff satisfaction.

Access's interdisciplinary team collaborated to support substance use disorder (SUD) treatment as a routine part of primary care, achieving multiple outcomes including:

- 35 medical providers across three clinic locations now prescribe buprenorphine for SUD treatment, increasing from three providers in 2018; and
- Increase in the number of patients served who received SUD treatment by over 80% between 2019 and 2023; and
- Implementation of an annual universal wellness screener for all patients as a part of Access' "We Ask Everyone" campaign to support reducing stigma associated with mental health and SUD treatment.

WPHCA received nominations from high-impact, innovative programs across the state, including:

- [Lakeshore Community Health Care's](#) Chronic Disease Management Team embarked on a project to address uncontrolled diabetes, resulting in a 30% increase in patients achieving a blood pressure level under 130/80 over three months when meeting with the pharmacist as part of the Chronic Disease Management program.
- [NorthLakes Community Clinic's](#) Lakewood & White Lake Medical Teams implemented a daily team huddle to proactively identify care gaps and prepare for the next day's visits, resulting in reduced referral work queues from an average of 100 days to just 10 and increased cervical cancer screening rates from 36% to 76% over one year.
- [Progressive Community Health Center](#) developed a self-monitored blood pressure program to improve hypertension control, engaging over 300 patients by taking blood pressure readings remotely and elevating overall hypertension control rates by 8%.

Community Health Centers across the state are engaged in creative quality and clinical improvement strategies. Please visit wphca.org to find a Community Health Center near you.

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WPHCA is the member association for Wisconsin's 19 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs, or Community Health Centers). Community Health Centers are non-profit, community-directed medical, dental, and behavioral health clinics.