



NEWS RELEASE
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COMMUNITY HEALTH OPTIONS ANNOUNCES NEW ADDITIONS TO MEMBER-LED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lewiston, ME – Community Health Options has announced that three new board directors begin their terms in 2016, accompanied by three formation board directors who were elected to the board. The newly elected directors were announced after the Health Options' Annual Meeting in November of 2015. The board of directors provides oversight and governance for the non-profit health insurance plan and is elected solely by the Members of the plan.

The election process began last spring with an invitation to Members to submit applications to become board director candidates. Community Health Options Members age 18 and older are eligible to vote for the candidates of their choice. Over 1,900 cast ballots in the recent election.

“As a non-profit, Member-led plan, the Board election is fundamentally important to emphasizing accountability back to our Members,” said Kevin Lewis, president and chief executive officer of Community Health Options. “Our newly elected directors are a talented group of individuals with diverse perspectives. They are each committed to our mission to provide affordable, high-quality health benefits.”

“As we begin a new year, it is with great gratitude that we thank the out-going board directors—Maryagnes Gillman, Wes Bonney, Linda Riddell, Gregory Wolf, and Dr. Lani Graham - who helped establish the early foundational structures of governance and oversight in keeping with our Member-led model of health insurance,” Lewis added.

Community Health Options is pleased to introduce the newly elected 2016 board directors:

Angela Berry - Human Resource Manager for East Branch Delivery Service and a Community Health Options Member. Angela has been involved in some form of healthcare for the past 30 years. As a small business owner of a golf course she dealt with exposure to chemicals that were used there and took a Certified Nursing Assistant course to learn about the dangers and preventive measures. Her accomplishments include two “firsts” within Maine: she was the first female in the state to hold a master pesticide license, and the first female in the state to hold a Medical Review Officer Assistant (MRO-A) certificate. She worked as an MRO-A for a large construction company in Pittsfield Maine, and has also worked as the human resource director for a wellness company, sitting on the leadership team and participating in strategic planning.

Dr. Fred Craigie, Jr. - Clinical psychologist, medical educator and writer; previously a Community Health Options formation board director. He served for over 35 years as a full-time faculty member at the Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency in Augusta, Maine, educating family physicians and providing behavioral health services to a largely lower-income, underserved population in their primary care center. He currently consults and teaches in Central Maine and nationally/internationally about spirituality in health care, healing relationships, integrative medicine, positive mental health, and clinician wellness. He holds appointments as associate professor of community and family medicine at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and visiting associate professor at the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine (AzCIM) at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

Jim Davis - CEO, Pines Health Services. Jim's responsibilities at Pines Health include overseeing all aspects of executive leadership for this multi-specialty safety net provider serving northern Aroostook County. His primary efforts are focused on physician recruitment, pursuit of diverse funding streams, quality improvement, and service expansion to meet the needs of the county's communities, and operations/financial management. He is extremely active in state and local community affairs, and currently serves in multiple volunteer leadership roles in Maine too numerous to mention in a single paragraph. Jim received his Bachelor's degree from Stanford University and Master's Degrees from San Jose State University and the University of California, Irvine. He previously served as board chair of Community Health Option's formation board and joined the board in the fall of 2011.

Tonua Fedusenko-Vancea - Owner/president of TJS Communications, Inc. (a public relations firm), and a Community Health Options Member. Tonua earned a BA in Communications from Southern Adventist University. She has considerable experience in a variety of roles at South Florida hospitals and healthcare networks in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, where she had oversight for numerous campaigns dedicated to women's health, pediatrics, elder care, emergency medicine, cardiac care, HIV/AIDS and managed care. Prior to owning her own firm, she provided communications consulting services to public relations and advertising agencies in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York – all of whom specialized in healthcare.

Felicity Myers - LCSW Therapist/Mediator/Guardian ad litem and a Community Health Options Member. Felicity was educated in Maine (BS, Human Development, Colby; Masters, Social Work, University of New England) and has extensive experience serving on volunteer non-profit boards and committees. As a self-employed professional, she understands the burdens of paying for healthcare. As a mental health provider, she sees people in her practice every day who were previously uninsured but now have access to healthcare, thanks to the ACA. She is passionate about all people having what they need to survive and thrive and believes that effective affordable healthcare is an essential piece of that puzzle.

David Shipman - Supervisor at Fedco Seeds, a consumer/worker cooperative; previously a Community Health Options formation board director. David has served on the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) board since 2004, for most of that time as its treasurer. In that role, David has been very involved in working on the options for healthcare coverage provided to MOFGA employees. In addition, David is taking part in plans to offer health coverage to MOFGA members, many of whom, as small farmers and producers, have difficulty finding affordable coverage. He joined the Community Health Options formation board in April of 2013.

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About Community Health Options – *Community Health Options (Health Options) is a non-profit, Member-led health plan providing comprehensive, Member-focused health insurance benefits for individuals, families, and businesses. Health Options is a Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) licensed in Maine and New Hampshire that is dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality health benefits through productive partnerships with Members, businesses, and a broad network of providers. For more information about Health Options, visit the website: HealthOptions.org.*