



## **Dorchester House Multi-Service Center**

Press Release

Dorchester, MA  
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### **Bridging the Gap between Mental Health & Primary Care**

DORCHESTER, MA- Dorchester House Multi-Service Center was recently awarded a grant for Mental Health Service Expansion & Behavioral Health Integration through the Affordable Care Act. Dorchester House continues to grow and is proud to provide world class healthcare to the community.

Through this funding opportunity, Dorchester House will implement a model of universal behavioral health screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) within our Adult Medicine and Pediatrics departments. Further plans include hiring a full-time behavioral health clinician that will be embedded in our primary care departments who will support behavioral health and primary care staff in patient engagement and connection to care.

President and CEO Walter Ramos explains; “This federal funding enables us to continue our important goal of incorporating behavioral health clinicians into all of our primary care departments here at Dorchester House. Behavioral health is a key part of our patients overall health and this award enables us to facilitate access to behavioral health care in a way that is patient centered, convenient and comprehensive.”

Under this project, Dorchester House estimates to serve 3000 patients. In addition to the positive impacts in the community which will result directly from patients improving in health outcomes, we expect this project to demonstrate the impact of a fully integrated behavioral health and primary care model for care of patients in the service area.

Dorchester house was selected as one of nine health centers in the Massachusetts area to be awarded competitive HHS funding for Mental Health Service Expansion & Behavioral Health Integration. Nationwide, 221 community health centers received this funding.

### **ABOUT DORCHESTER HOUSE MULTI-SERVICE CENTER**

The Dorchester House Multi-Service Center is a federally qualified health center located in the Fields Corner neighborhood of Dorchester. The Dorchester House has provided essential healthcare, social services and wellness opportunities to the community for over 40 years. At

Dorchester House we know that the health disparities in our community cannot be addressed through the treatment of individual, medically based issues alone. As such, we offer our over 22,000 patients extensive case management, financial and legal services as well as a number of community programs. By connecting our patients with comprehensive primary care, social services and in-house programs – all under one roof – we support the overall good health of our patients and build a stronger and healthier community.