

# HEALTH MATTERS



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Fourth Quarter 2021

PrimaryOne Health's newsworthy information

## The End of 2021 – Gone But Not Forgotten

By Charleta B. Tavares, CEO



The last quarter of 2021 ended as it started with increased COVID-19 cases and a new variant – Omicron which is much more contagious. Our health care community is working diligently to provide testing, vaccines and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our community residents especially, residents who have underlying health conditions and are vulnerable.

PrimaryOne Health (PIH) has been working with the Columbus, Franklin County and Ohio Departments of Health, and Medicaid along with the U.S. Health Resources and Services

Administration (HRSA) to acquire vaccines, testing supplies, and PPE to vaccinate and provide the third dose or “booster”. These collective efforts will help us to protect our patients, staff and community against the new variant and reduce hospitalizations, breakout cases and deaths.

PrimaryOne Health expanded our Mobile Health Services with the addition of a 2nd mobile unit to provide COVID-19 testing, vaccines and primary care in underserved areas of Franklin and Pickaway Counties. We now have two Mobile Health Centers

wellness and primary care services.

The Healthcare Justice Awards (HCJA) Luncheon was held on November 3, 2021 with more than 250 attendees (socially distanced and wearing masks) to announce the award recipients and the new Healthcare Justice Scholarship Fund (see page 6). The HCJA Planning Committee raised over \$50,000 for the scholarship fund which is endowed at the Columbus Foundation. The committee is already planning the PrimaryOne Health 25th Anniversary and 8th Annual Healthcare Justice Award gala to be held on November 10, 2022!

PrimaryOne Health said good-bye to two Board members whose terms on the Board have expired, Dr. Seleshi Asfaw and Ada Sanchez. They each served two three-year terms and were valuable additions to the Board, bringing unique skills, talents and perspectives. At the same time, PIH added four new members to the Board, Emily Fisher, Miski Issak, Erica McGriff and David Sanchez. More information will be shared on the new members in the next edition of **Health Matters**.

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(MHC), **Driving Good Health to You!**

® PIH is partnering with government including the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, faith and community-based organizations, like Make A Day Foundation to meet residents where they are to provide COVID-19 protection,

**COVID-19 Testing, Vaccines & Home Kits Available**

**Mondays & Wednesdays from 9 am. - Noon**

**Locations:**

**2300 W. Broad Street & 3433 Agler Road**

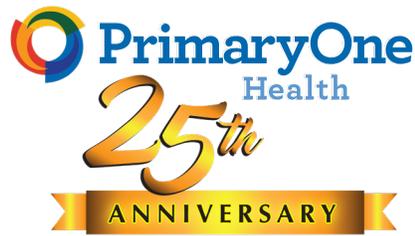
📞 614.645.5500

🌐 [www.primaryonehealth.org](http://www.primaryonehealth.org)



# PrimaryOne Health Celebrates 25 Years of Service

Join PrimaryOne Health in 2022 as the organization celebrates 25-years of serving the Columbus and Central Ohio community. Originally the health center was formed as Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers, Inc. in 1997 with the goal of providing access to services to improve the health status of families who experienced barriers to healthcare. As Central Ohio's largest and oldest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the organization provides health care and addresses the social determinants of health including, transportation, education, language, poverty, food insecurities, housing and other social conditions that influence individual and group differences in



health access and outcomes.

Today, PrimaryOne Health provides care at 12 locations and two Mobile Health Centers. The health center offers comprehensive primary care, OB-GYN, pediatric, vision, dental, behavioral health, as well as specialty services such as nutrition, pharmacy and physical therapy to over 40,000

insured and un/underinsured patients throughout Franklin and Pickaway Counties.

In the past 25 years PrimaryOne Health has grown in both size and in the services offered. The Board and staff invite you to join them in celebrating their 25th Anniversary in 2022. During the year, they will host community events, health center tours and on-line/in-person discussions and forums to inform and educate the community on their services, programs and partnerships. Keep an eye on the upcoming events and activities calendar by visiting the website at [www.primaryonehealth.org](http://www.primaryonehealth.org).

## In The Community

PrimaryOne Health continues to make a difference in the communities it serves. In the fourth quarter of 2021, Community Services, Mobile Health Center and Vaccine/Testing staff provided food, health information and resources, flu shots, COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and primary care at more than 87 community and agency partner events in Franklin and Pickaway counties.

PrimaryOne Health's new Mobile Health Centers logged thousands of



miles serving communities in need. The Mobile Health Center and Vaccine/Testing staff were seen at more than 49 events including the Linden Rec Center Community Resource Event, Circleville Pumpkin Show, La Fiesta Latina and the West Mound Stars Homecoming. In 2021, PrimaryOne Health provided more than 14,687 COVID-19 vaccines and 5,790 COVID-19 tests to residents in Franklin and Pickaway counties.

# The Future is Bright for Our Expecting Mothers & Families

At PrimaryOne Health (PIH), success looks like an expecting mother having the prenatal care experience and birth outcomes that she most values through our maternal health care. Decreasing infant mortality rates and improving birth outcomes is our top priority. In Ohio, the hard reality is that non-Hispanic African American/Black infants are 2.8 times more likely to die than Caucasian/White infants. Research has shown that addressing the social determinants of health (SDOH) as part of prenatal care is essential in moving forward and specifically important when addressing the racial disparities. In the Women's Health Department, relationship-centered, wrap around services are offered that provide individualized care for every family. Some of the wrap-around services that have shown to be effective in addressing SDOH include community health outreach workers, home visiting services, and group prenatal care.

PIH is excited to share with you the following updates:

- **CenteringPregnancy®:** CenteringPregnancy (CP) is a group prenatal care program that brings together eight to ten expectant parents with similar pregnancy due dates for a more hands-on, individualized, comfortable prenatal care experience. CenteringPregnancy groups were relaunched after they were paused due to the pandemic in October 2021. Currently, classes are being held at the 1905 Parsons Avenue location with plans to have groups running at 2300 West Broad, 1180 East Main, and 3433 Agler Road locations by summer 2022. PIH is happy to announce that CenteringPregnancy groups will be held in **Spanish and Somali!** Eliminating the barrier of language is essential and the organization is proud to be offering this care to Central Ohio families.



PrimaryOne Health adopted the Centering model with the goal of improving pregnancy outcomes in an evidence-based, relationship-centered environment. Centering Healthcare Institute Inc. studies show that expectant parents who participate in CP have healthier babies, fewer preterm deliveries and improved pregnancy outcomes. Additionally, CenteringPregnancy has a great impact on decreasing racial disparities in preterm birth. Studies show that African American/Black women, who experience higher risk for preterm birth in the US, have lower risks of preterm birth when they participate in CP than in traditional OB care.

- **Healthy Families America Home Visit Program:** In Fall 2021, PIH launched this program to empower pregnant mothers and parents with in-home education and activities. Families are paired with a Family Support Specialist who go into the home to provide individualized education, resources, referrals, and strengthen parenting skills. This program also works heavily on addressing SDOH for families. This is an evidence-based program that reduces pregnancy complications by 70%. PIH has enrolled and maintained a caseload of 45 families. Services are provided on a voluntary basis prenatally and up to 3 years of age. This program is a part of

the Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program.

- **Women's Community Health Outreach Workers (CHOW):** Families are referred to the Women's CHOW team specifically to address SDOH and empower families to access the resources they need such as infant supplies, WIC, insurance, housing/utility, food, etc. This team is particularly vital to our families that are not involved in CenteringPregnancy and Healthy Families Home Visit Program. Through collaborations with Cribs for Kids (CPH) and BottumsUp, PIH is able to provide free cribs and diapers to families. Additionally, there is an infant and family resource room, which supply clothing and other supplies for families in crisis.

- **Prenatal Oral Health Integration Program:** Poor oral health can lead to infections that have a negative impact on birth outcomes. In summer 2021, PIH launched the integration program to emphasize oral health during pregnancy. By fall 2021, an average of 75% of prenatal patients were referred to receive dental care from this program.

If you would like additional information, please contact Lynae Picou, Women's Health Program Manager (lynae.picou@primaryonehealth.org)

# 7th Annual Healthcare Justice Awards Advancing Diversity in Healthcare



The 7th annual Healthcare Justice Awards took place on November 4, 2021 at the Marriott Columbus OSU. It was a day of celebration, recognition, and gratitude. With community support, PrimaryOne Health raised more than \$80,000 to help start our newly created Healthcare Justice Scholarship Fund. PrimaryOne Health created this fund to assist in cultivating a much-needed diverse health professional pipeline. We are intentional in identifying, educating and preparing current and future health professionals who are entering or advancing their careers from under-represented racial, ethnic and cultural populations. The fund will enable us to continue to diversify our staff and other health organizations to improve health outcomes with individuals who represent the communities in which they serve. We are purposeful in creating an endowment at the Columbus Foundation to seed and grow the funds

in order to provide more scholarships in the future to increase the number of healthcare professionals from these communities.

In addition to exceeding our financial goal we recognized and celebrated the work of two very deserving individuals. Councilwoman Priscilla R. Tyson was the 2021 Community Healthcare Justice Award recipient. As a member of Columbus City Council since 2007, Tyson has championed job creation, economic development, safety, and improving the quality of life for Columbus residents. As the chair of the Health and Human Services and Workforce Development committees, she has worked feverishly to address many of the community's highest priorities, including access to healthcare, healthcare inequities, food insecurity, and the challenges and opportunities for Black Girls. Tina

Vamos was selected as the 2021 Internal Healthcare Justice Award recipient. Tina has been with PrimaryOne Health since 2014 and is the site manager for both the 1905 Parsons Avenue and 3781 South High Street health centers. Tina serves as an advocate for Southside residents and works tirelessly alongside her staff, being a trusted and dependable manager. Her unwavering dedication to patients, staff, and the Southside community was recognized and appreciated.

For those that were not able to attend the event you can watch our Healthcare Justice Awards video and/or donate to our scholarship fund, by visiting: [www.primaryonehealth.org/in-the-community/healthcarejusticeawards](http://www.primaryonehealth.org/in-the-community/healthcarejusticeawards)

For more information contact Susan Brewer, [susan.brewer@primaryonehealth.org](mailto:susan.brewer@primaryonehealth.org)



Your first choice for quality care®

Mission: To provide access to services that improve the health status of families, including people experiencing financial, social, or cultural barriers to health care.



This health center is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n).

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