

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

## Vocational Services Awarded \$2.3 Million Contract

The Department of Vocational Services was awarded \$2.3 million from Maine's Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a vocational assessment on every recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the state of Maine.

There are roughly 10,000 individuals receiving TANF in the state. Sixteen employees have been hired for the project and will be located throughout the state. The goal of the project is to understand what will be needed to assist this population in becoming successfully employed.

Additionally, the Department of Vocational Services was surveyed by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) in August. There were no findings or recommendations made, an extraordinary accomplishment as only three percent of CARF surveys result in no recommendations.

With a staff count just shy of 60, the department stays busy seeing inpatients, outpatients, and providing services from York to Fort Kent in statewide projects including:

- Benefits Counseling

— Free services are offered statewide to individuals who receive Social Security disability benefits. Often a recipient wants to work, but is fearful about losing the cash and medical benefits on which they rely.

- Employment Services — Evidence-based services are provided to individuals receiving mental health case management care in seven centers across the state.

“When a patient or someone you know is challenged with entering or reentering the work force due to an illness or disabling condition, we're here to help,” says Christine McKenzie, Vocational Services Director. “We equate wellness with the ability to work and we are here to help individuals achieve that outcome.”

For more information about Vocational Services programs, contact Christine, [mckench@mmc.org](mailto:mckench@mmc.org), 662-6048.



## Valentine's Treat at BBCH

Barbara Bush Children's Hospital patients and their families enjoyed a pizza party from Portland Pie Company on Valentine's Day.

*Pictured (l-r): BBCH patient Madeline, Madeline's mom, patient Charlotte with her mom, and Madeline's sister, Abby.*

## New Epic Workflows Help Caregivers Provide Tobacco Treatment

In May 2013, Maine Medical Center implemented a comprehensive, organization-wide Tobacco-Free Policy. The policy, which was a goal of MMC's 2013 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), prohibits tobacco use on any Maine Medical Center grounds by anyone, including patients, visitors, and employees. The hospital also created guidelines for caregivers to help their patients comply with the policy while on campus.

This year's AIP Population Health goal sets out to make it even easier for caregivers to offer treatment to tobacco users. The goal is to "develop and implement a standardized tobacco intervention across all care practice sites to consistently identify tobacco using patients, assess their interest in quitting tobacco, and provide those interested with the necessary resources."

In order to make this a manageable task for those on the front lines of patient care, new workflows have been developed in Epic that optimize best practices for delivering high quality care to patients who use tobacco.

The priority is to provide a safe and healthy environment for all patients and to ensure care that keeps patients as comfortable as possible throughout their stay. In the inpatient setting, an educational campaign is under way to support nursing staff to learn how to:

- Effectively screen patients on admission for tobacco use.
- Find information about the Tobacco-Free Policy.
- Educate patients about available treatments and resources.

In outpatient practices, new workflows in Epic will prompt staff to ask patients about tobacco use and offer a referral to the Maine Tobacco Helpline (MTH). A new electronic referral creates a more efficient and effective communication between the MTH and referring providers with just a few clicks. This replaces the paper referral form that was used in the past.

In further support of this initiative, the MaineHealth Center For Tobacco Independence will be offering clinical and SeHR workflow training.

For more information, contact Barbara Perry, [perryb@mainehealth.org](mailto:perryb@mainehealth.org) (inpatient) or Sarah Gagne, [gagnes@mainehealth.org](mailto:gagnes@mainehealth.org) (outpatient).

COMING  
UP AT  
MMC

**MCCP Moonlight Challenge**  
**Saturday, February 22**  
**5 - 10 p.m.**  
**Shawnee Peak**  
**Bridgton**

**Safety, Childproofing, and Basic First Aid**  
**Saturday, March 8**  
**9 - 11 a.m.**  
**East Tower Classrooms**  
**\$25/person**

**MMC Kidney Transplant Night With The Red Claws**  
**Sunday, March 30**  
**1 p.m.**  
**Portland Expo**  
**\$10/ticket**

**Yoga Fridays**  
**For MMC Employees**  
**4 - 5 p.m.**  
**East Tower Classroom 2**  
**(No class February 21)**  
**\$10/Class**

*For details on all upcoming events, check out the Calendar on the MMC Intranet.*

### WOW! Rewards Rescreening Ends February 28

If you completed both steps of WOW! Rewards in 2013 and didn't meet one or more targets, you are eligible to participate in the rescreening.

For more information visit [mainehealth.com/wowrewards](http://mainehealth.com/wowrewards).



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