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Consumer Health Care HelpLine Getting Much Needed Help

(Augusta) Maine’s largest consumer health organization, Consumers for Affordable Health Care, is thrilled to have Mary Schneckenger join our staff! After volunteering at CAHC for months, Mary was hired as our new HelpLine and Outreach Associate.

For ten years our non-profit organization has run a toll free health care **HelpLine at 1800-965-7476**. But, this year we’re seeing our highest call volume ever--a 35% increase in calls over this time last year. As the economy worsens, and Maine’s unemployment rate increases, so does the need of people to find quality, affordable health care for their families.

Through our HelpLine we help residents navigate the confusing health care system and hopefully find answers to their health care and coverage questions. We focus on issues ranging from letting people know if they qualify for public insurance programs that help with the cost of health care or coverage to helping people over the phone with filling out their public or private insurance applications.

“Mary has been a critically important hire, as the capacity of the HelpLine and Outreach department has been stretched for some time to accommodate increased demand for our services during these hard economic times. Mary’s quick mind and “can-do” attitude have already made her a pleasure to work with, and a very helpful resource for people in need of assistance,” says CAHC HelpLine Coordinator Jaime D’Errico

Mary comes to us with 25 years experience working with adults, primarily in community and adult education. She has worked as a Staff Development Specialist and Project Coordinator for the Center for Adult Learning and Literacy at the University of Maine, Orono, and most recently as Program Coordinator for Literacy Volunteers-Androscoggin in Auburn, Maine.

She earned a Ms. Ed in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Maine and a B. S. in Psychology from Towson State University in Maryland. She has experience working with special needs adults, adult education staff, volunteers, immigrants and refugees. After volunteering at CAHC this summer, Mary is excited to work for positive change in Maine with her new career path,

“I am grateful to be working with the fine staff at CAHC, working toward mitigating injustice by shepherding pieces of access to health care to people in Maine.”

Mary and her husband live in Litchfield in a passive solar house they built 22 years ago. Her mission is to increase justice and she is particularly passionate about improving access to health care.

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If you have any public or private insurance questions please call our toll free HelpLine at 1-800-965-7476.

Consumers for Affordable Health Care is not affiliated with any insurance company. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has been helping Maine people get quality, affordable health care for 20 years.

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For more information or to schedule interviews contact:

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"Health care should be a right not a privilege."