Health Coverage and Access at Maine’s FQHCs

Hillary Colcord, MHRT/C
Health Equity Program Manager
FQHCs 101

- FQHC = Federally Qualified Health Center, AKA Community Health Center
- Federally-funded, community-run, non-profit primary care practices
- In areas designated to be Medically Underserved Areas or serving a Medically Underserved Population (HRSA)
- Seek to improve quality and access to care
  - serve everyone in their service area, regardless of insurance status or income level
- FQHCs in Maine served over 211,000 patients in 2019 (~1 in 6 Mainers)
  - Approximately 20% of FQHC patients are Medicare beneficiaries
FQHC Services

- Comprehensive primary care
  - Including behavioral, dental, other specialties as able
- Enabling services, including
  - Prescription drug assistance programs
  - Enrollment support (MaineCare, LIHEAP, SNAP, other social services)
  - Transportation service linkages
Outreach and Enrollment at FQHCs

- Certified Application Counselors (CACs) on staff
- CACs perform in-reach, community outreach, and enrollment support
- Able to assist anyone with enrollment, whether they are a health center patient or not
- Perform eligibility screening, consumer referrals, and enrollment
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach
- Uphold Marketplace Privacy and Security Standards
Partnership Opportunities

- **Referral support**
  - FQHC staff can assist with connections to health care or enabling services
    - Access to primary care
    - Access to specialty care
    - Prescription drug assistance programs
    - Transportation or other supports as needed/available

- Can fill a gap if you are working with someone who is in-between insurance coverage and has health needs.
Where can consumers go for help?

- Find your local FQHC
  - www.findmyhealthcenter.org
- Consumers for Affordable Health Care
  - Helpline: 1-800-965-7476
- Federal Marketplace Website
  - www.healthcare.gov