

We Must Continue to Stand Up to Racial Injustice



At Charles River Community Health, we are heartbroken and outraged by the continued turmoil, racial injustice and outright bigotry that has plagued our nation – particularly against black and brown people.

Communities of color were already struggling from the devastating health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, since they are disproportionately impacted.

Community Health Centers around the country – including this one – have their roots in the civil rights and social justice movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

We were built on a founding principle that health care is a right that must be provided with dignity and respect –

to *everyone* in the community – regardless of race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, or other background.

We are privileged to care for an extraordinarily rich and diverse patient population. More than 85 percent of our patients are people of color, and 59 percent require services in a language other than English. Our staff is incredibly diverse as well, with the vast majority from communities of color and multilingual.

Still, we recognize we have implicit bias that we often don't see in ourselves. That's why we provide training to: 1) help our staff identify it, and 2) integrate best practices to overcome the special cultural, social, or ethnic barriers to care, so we can better address the unique health needs of the people we serve. But it's clear during this time of extraordinary stress and upheaval, we all need to do more to acknowledge and respond to racism and injustice.

A sign at each of our building entrances says All are Welcome Here. That message is in several languages to state explicitly to patients and the community that we welcome people from all backgrounds. We include the rainbow heart to tell the world that we are a safe and open space for members of our LGBTQ community.

We will continue each day to stand up to racial and cultural injustice and provide the health care and other services our patients from all backgrounds need to lead healthier lives.

During this time, let us be there for one another, let us continue to be a force of good and change, and let us continue to stand up and stand together to work toward an inclusive culture where All are Welcome Here.

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