



710 spence lane | nashville, tn 37217
615.329.3836 | fax: 615.329.3823

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Terri Woodmore • terri.woodmore@tpca.org • 615-425-5850

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2018

Tennessee Primary Care Association honors community health leaders

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Tennessee Primary Care Association recently recognized several community health care leaders with Awards of Excellence. The awards, named for early leaders in the statewide primary care movement, were presented at TPCA's 2018 Annual Leadership Conference, during which the Association also celebrated its 40th anniversary.

The Caryl E. Carpenter Excellence in Community Support Award, which recognizes an individual (not employed by a health center) for his or her support of community health center programs, was presented to **Clara Terry, who has served as a board member at Mountain People's Health Councils Inc. (MPHC) in Scott County for more than 40 years.** Terry has held many positions during her tenure, and currently serves as the board's treasurer. Carpenter, the award's namesake, was a former executive director of MPHC.

The Charles E. Darling Organization of Excellence Award, which recognizes a team or organization that has exhibited innovation and dedication to the delivery of primary care, was awarded to **the provider team from Connectus Health in Nashville.** Among its many accolades, the Connectus provider team has become a preferred referral resource for the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, an outspoken advocate of the transgender population, and well known in the community for their advanced midwifery services.

(more)

Tennessee Primary Care Association ... leaders, 2/3

The Logan Beasley Leadership Excellence Award, which recognizes an individual within a health center whose leadership has improved access to primary health care, was presented to **Edward Capparelli, medical director of Mountain People's Health Councils**. Capparelli has served as MPHC since 2009, and over the past year has provided oversight to all of MPHC's nurse practitioner and physician assistant staff following the retirement of one of the organization's longest tenured physicians, and while the only other physician recovered from a medical issue. During this time, MPHC was able to continue to provide outstanding care to a growing population of patients, even as two other main practices in the area either closed or cutback on acceptance of new patients. Capparelli also provides statewide leadership as the speaker of the House of Delegates of the Tennessee Medical Association, and as chairman of the TennCare Pharmacy Advisory Committee.

The Outstanding Practitioner of the Year Award, which recognizes a clinical practitioner whose work has demonstrated outstanding leadership, community involvement and dedication to patient care, was awarded to **Larry Mathers, a physician at Rural Medical Services in Newport**. In addition to being one of Rural Medical's most productive providers, he is also the organization's electronic health record (EHR) and clinical informatics coordinator. He has been instrumental in leading the organization's meaningful use efforts and was the catalyst for adoption of an EHR in 2005-2006. Mathers consistently receives excellent patient satisfaction results and is well respected by his colleagues.

The Tennessee Primary Care Association improves access to primary health care through leadership, advocacy, and support as the voice of Community Health Centers. TPCA's membership is comprised of more than 30 non-profit primary care clinics operating nearly 200 satellite sites that provide high quality, comprehensive primary care to people across the state. Member health centers served more than 437,000 Tennesseans in 2017 and continue to see their patient numbers grow.

###

About the Awards of Excellence Namesakes

The Caryl E. Carpenter Excellence in Community Support Award: Caryl Carpenter administered rural community health centers in East Tennessee and served as TPCA's first president, from 1976 to 1978.

The Charles E. Darling Organization of Excellence Award: Dr. Charles E. Darling dedicated his life to serving the prenatal health needs of women in East Tennessee, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Logan Beasley Leadership Excellence Award: Throughout his career with the U.S. Public Health Service, Logan Beasley steadfastly worked both regionally and with individual centers to develop primary care services and to strengthen community health centers.