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READER SUBMITTED: Doctor From Community Health Center, Inc. Recognized

Eliza Cole, Community Health Center, Inc.

Middletown

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Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) is pleased to announce that Dr. Velandy Manohar, psychiatrist at Community Health Center of Middletown, was conferred the Member Partnership Award, presented by the Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership in late June, during a ceremony at Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook.

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The Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership (CMHP), Member Partnership Award was developed to recognize an outstanding member whose leadership and community works have helped to mobilize and unify community and peers to address Health Equity and Standards on Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). Manohar was nominated by his peers for the contributions he has made towards the elimination of disparities in access to care and health outcomes.

"I nominated Dr. Manohar for this award because I believe his level of contribution to CMHP strengthens and inspires peer participation and demonstrates actions that have resulted in expanded involvement of existing partnerships both locally and statewide," said Lata Chawla, Principal and Senior Management Consultant of Performance Edge, LLC. "It is apparent that Dr. Manohar has a deep understanding of the complexity of the causes and solutions to health disparities and clearly show his commitment to the goals of CMHP as a participating member and someone who excels beyond basic expectations."

Manohar was asked to join the Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership as a charter member in 2008. He has served on the Consumer Driven Initiative Committee, where he helped to develop the grant program to support the adoption of the Ask Me 3 program to enhance engagement of patients in the assessment and treatment process.

Manohar has actively advocated at the state and national level for policies to make mental health more accessible to all. He has spoken at conferences and given of his time to provide services at events around the state. He has also published many important works and served in leadership roles of national organizations.

"At CHC, we are very proud to have a provider as committed and global thinking as Dr. Manohar on our staff. He is looked upon by several of his colleagues as a compassionate mentor who can be counted on as an advocate for social change," said Dr. Nwando Olayiwola, Chief Medical Officer of Community Health Center. "He is constantly encouraging fellow clinical staff to participate in community efforts that will improve the quality of services for our patients."

"Dr. Manohar has been a tireless advocate for mental health parity for patients in Connecticut, speaking up for some of the most disenfranchised and vulnerable patients and communities," said Dr. Timothy Kearney, Director of Behavioral Health at Community Health Center. "I know I can speak for everyone here at CHC by saying this recognition is well deserved. Congratulations, Dr. Manohar."

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