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**CHC's Weitzman Institute Transforms
LGBT Health through Project ECHO**

Middletown, Conn, March 29, 2016: The Weitzman Institute, the innovation and research arm of Community Health Center, Inc., is launching a national program on April 7 to improve health outcomes for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people by expanding the availability of culturally responsible, comprehensive primary care through awareness, education and knowledge sharing.

Project ECHO LGBT is open at no cost to primary care providers at community health centers across the U.S. seeking to connect with an expert faculty from Boston's Fenway Institute. Sessions are conducted twice monthly via videoconference technology, and provide a secure environment where providers will receive specific recommendations to better address the medical and behavioral challenges related to LGBT patient care. Currently, dozens of providers from health centers in states including California, Colorado, Texas, Michigan and Connecticut are enrolled to participate.

As health centers implement policies to promote cultural competency and a welcoming environment for LGBT people, primary care providers increasingly encounter the unique health needs of this population. Topics to be addressed during the Project ECHO LGBT clinics include: HIV prevention and care; taking a comprehensive sexual health history; conceiving and raising families; and behavioral health.

"Our year-long LGBT health curriculum is designed by primary care providers for primary care providers," says Agi Erickson, director of Project ECHO. "We want to address the real challenges faced by primary care providers and demonstrably improve care received by LGBT people."

"With the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this first-of-its kind national effort will change many lives," commented Mark Masselli, President/CEO of Community Health Center.

"Health centers around the U.S. are transforming their practices to create a welcoming medical home for LGBT patients. Project ECHO LGBT is a critical tool for breaking barriers to care wherever they exist."

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About Community Health Center, Inc.

Since 1972, Community Health Center, Inc. has been one of the leading healthcare providers in the state of Connecticut, building a world-class primary healthcare system committed to caring for uninsured and underserved populations. CHC is focused on improving health outcomes for its more than 130,000 patients as well as building healthy communities. Recognized as both a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance and a Primary Care Medical Home by The Joint Commission, CHC delivers service in more than 200 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. For more information, visit www.chc1.com.

About The Weitzman Institute

The Weitzman Institute is the research and innovation arm of Community Health Center, Inc., dedicated to inspiring primary care innovation and improving health outcomes for the medically underserved. With its expertise in quality improvement, the Weitzman Institute is partnering with organizations around the globe to transform the primary care delivery system through research, training and education. For more information, visit www.weitzmaninstitute.org.