



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Heidi Wilson  
NWH Public Affairs  
978.494.3699  
[hwilson4@partners.org](mailto:hwilson4@partners.org)

## **NEWTON-WELLESLEY HOSPITAL TACKLES EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES IN WALTHAM**

### **Newly Launched Wraparound Waltham Awarded \$1.5M Grant to Improve Graduation Rates at Waltham High School**

**NEWTON, Mass. (Sept. 26, 2019)** – The Newton-Wellesley Hospital (NWH) Collaborative for Healthy Families and Communities (CHF&C) is facilitating a major community effort aimed at addressing disparities in high school graduation rates among Waltham students. Wraparound Waltham, a newly formed collaborative, will lead this groundbreaking work. Wraparound Waltham is led by the Waltham Partnership for Youth (WPY) and includes Waltham Boys and Girls Club, Children’s Charter (a division of The Key Program, Inc.), Doc Wayne Youth Services and The Right to Immigration Institute.

This initiative is made possible by the approval of a Determination of Need Community Health Initiative process for Mass General Waltham and Mass General Physician’s Organization Waltham and the resulting grant funding available for community benefit. The grant, a total of \$1.5M over four years, was awarded to Wraparound Waltham. NWH is facilitating this initiative on behalf of Massachusetts General Hospital.

Wraparound Waltham will work in close partnership with Waltham Public Schools to address disparities in high school graduation rates among Waltham students. An earlier comprehensive review revealed comparative discrepancies regionally and across the state. The study was conducted by NWH in collaboration with a Waltham-based advisory committee comprised of representatives from local businesses, public health and social service agencies.

The Wraparound Waltham grant will support a team of providers who will conduct mental health assessments and social determinants of health screenings for immigrant students. The group will work closely with these students and their caregivers to gain a full understanding of the needs, strengths and personal goals of each student and then develop Individual Student Success Plans (ISSPs). The ISSPs will include a host of in-school and out-of-school programs and support designed to address basic needs such as food, housing and transportation; employment needs; linguistic and social isolation; school belonging and engagement; ability to adapt to new environments; and access to mental health care.

Wraparound Waltham’s initiatives will focus on recent immigrants and refugees (primarily from Central America and South America) with the potential to expand their impact. “It is our hope that this model will ultimately inform the way systems of support are designed for all high needs students at Waltham High School, not just those who meet the target demographic for this grant,” said Kaytie Dowcett, Executive Director, WPY.

The grant is distributed in the amount of \$300,000 per year for four years. An additional award of \$78,000 per year will be given to Waltham Public Schools over four years to support their work with Wraparound Waltham.

Newton-Wellesley Hospital’s CHF&C was formed to enhance the services and resources that address unmet patient and community wellness needs. The CHF&C encompasses Newton-Wellesley Hospital’s community benefit initiatives; a free speaker’s bureau; and community programs focused on post-partum depression, elder care, domestic violence, palliative care, child and adolescent mental health, and more.

-more-

Page Two

Newton-Wellesley Hospital is a full system member of Partners HealthCare, a nonprofit organization that includes academic medical centers Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Serving its community for more than 130 years, NWH provides a wide range of services to its surrounding communities, including medical, surgical, obstetric and gynecological, cardiovascular, emergency, orthopedic, neonatal, pediatric, hematology/oncology and psychiatric care—with a medical staff of over 1,000 physicians practicing a full range of specialties. NWH is a major teaching hospital for Tufts University School of Medicine and has established post-graduate training programs for residents of Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, teaching hospitals of Harvard Medical School.

For more information about Newton-Wellesley Hospital's programs and services, or to make an appointment with a physician, please visit [www.nwh.org](http://www.nwh.org) or contact 866-NWH-DOCS (694-3627).

###