



James W. Hunt, Jr., PhD
President & CEO
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers since 1979, James W. Hunt, Jr. has played the major role in creating a strong organization that supports, advocates for and provides resources for the Commonwealth's 52 community health centers. Together, the centers serve nearly 820,000 patients a year, providing a mix of medical, dental and behavioral health needs and are the primary health care source in underserved communities.

Jim began his career as a Civil Engineer for the City of Boston, but was recruited to work full-time at the Neponset Circle Community Health Center that his wife had been instrumental in starting. He then was selected as Director of Health Resources for the League, at the time a modest operation with four employees working in a rundown office in Roxbury. Today the League has a budget of \$10 million, 25 employees and is one of the most effective and respected primary care provider networks in America's healthcare system. Among several corporations under its umbrella is the Commonwealth Purchasing Group, which helps community centers save thousands of dollars a year on supplies, services, and equipment they use every day.

Jim's move from a secure government job to a, then little known, health care model speaks of his strongest traits. Willing to explore new options, to take risks and to learn whatever they can, he and his wife Jean saw this invitation to join the health center at

Neponset Circle as an opportunity to make good things happen for their family and community—despite the salary decrease. His ability to grow the community health centers and their ministry to the underserved population throughout the region comes from his organizational and people skills and his devotion to helping others. Being there to support a family member, a best friend, an acquaintance and even a stranger he has just met is Jim's trademark. He is joyful when others succeed and readily makes himself available to provide advice or to mentor someone seeking guidance.

True to his enthusiasm for helping others, Jim delights in the awarding each year of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers' Hunt Scholarship to an undergraduate who displays a genuine interest in community and public health through academic study or volunteer service. For Jim, who is a true mentor for many, this is yet another example of helping others.

As both a state and national leader, Jim has helped promote the value of health centers in improving access to quality health care and in reducing costs across the health system. Since 2006, Jim has helped steer the Massachusetts health center network through the uncharted waters of state health reform, where health centers remain at the forefront of the Commonwealth's efforts to implement near-universal coverage for its residents. More recently, Jim has worked to strengthen the role of health centers under newly emerging health care payment and delivery models and to meet national reform goals tied to increasing the numbers of patients served by the nation's community health centers.

Jim Hunt is a true Shattuck City Champion. Thank you Jim for all you do to improve the quality of life and health for so many citizens of the City and the Commonwealth.

