

Advocacy at Dartmouth Health Children's

Community Pediatrics

"Community Pediatrics includes a commitment to use a community's resources in collaboration with other professionals, agencies, and parents to achieve optimal accessibility, appropriateness, and quality of services for all children and to advocate especially for those who lack access to care because of social, cultural, geographic, or economic conditions or special health care needs."

- *American Academy of Pediatrics*

At Dartmouth Health Children's, many residents are involved in community service or advocacy projects. Through advocacy work our residents are able to help those whose voice is not usually heard, and provide direct service in a community setting. In each instances our program partners with existing community organizations to facilitate advocacy work.

To learn more about Community Pediatrics at Dartmouth Health Children's, please visit the [Boyle Community Pediatrics Program](#) website.

Our Programs

The Dartmouth Health Children's Family Advisory Board

This board is made up of parents and Dartmouth Health Children's professionals working together to improve family centered care initiatives. One of its recent projects is called "Children's Voices." Parents from the board speak with hospitalized children to learn what it's really like to be in the hospital. The board then works with Dartmouth Health Children's leadership to make changes that reflect the needs of these children. The board also annually reviews satisfaction surveys completed by parents and works with Dartmouth Health Children's Dartmouth Health Children's leadership to ensure excellence in all aspects of care for children.

Molly's Place at the Dartmouth Health Children's Family Center

Molly's Place was created by families for families. It offers support, resources, services and a welcome respite while at the medical center. The Dartmouth Health Children's Family Center website helps families and professionals find community agencies, schools, and state and regional resources. It offers educational conferences for families and friends, and helps families navigate the

complexities of financial entitlements and state insurance programs to lessen the burden of illness.

Dartmouth Health Children's Schwartz Center Rounds

Dartmouth Health Children's Schwartz Center Rounds are interdisciplinary forums to provide support for health providers in their often difficult and stressful roles, promote teamwork, and enhance the compassionate relationship between patients and caregivers. They are sponsored by the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center.

Community Pediatrics for Pediatric Residents

As an academic medical center, the Boyle program is committed to educating its pediatric residents to learn from our community how to support children's health and advocate for unmet needs. Dartmouth Health Children's recognizes that families live in communities, and that family-centered care extends beyond the walls of the medical center. Through partnerships with community leaders, resources and programs, Dartmouth Health Children's creates a network of support for the children and families it serves. From local school meetings to state hearings, Dartmouth Health Children's supports its faculty and staff to advocate for the health and safety of all children.

Family Faculty for Pediatric Residents

Here, families join our medical faculty to bring family-centered care into medical education. By sharing their unique stories in their homes and schools, families with children who have serious illness impart lasting lessons about respectful and beneficial care.

Sibshops of the Upper Valley

Recreational activities for children who have siblings with special needs.

Resident Projects

Our residents work on a variety of topics and projects. The following is a select sampling of some of the projects our residents have participated in.

- **Police and the Safety of Black Youth in the Upper Valley** – Community forum organized by PL-3 Dr. Faith Goronga, for a conversation on child well-being and development among pediatricians, police and community members
- **Advocacy Day** – meeting with state legislators and child advocates at the New Hampshire Capital about legislation affecting children
- **Northern New England Advocacy Collaborative** – a partnership with Maine and Vermont to advocate for the children of Northern New England
- **Oral health** – working with the Upper Valley Haven to provide fluoride varnishes and promote oral health in our region's most vulnerable children

- **Moms in Recovery** – supporting parents in recovery and helping their children get off to healthy starts
- **Sickle cell disease handbook** – creation of a handbook for families who have children with sickle cell disease
- **Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative** – increasing breastfeeding in the Upper Valley community through partnership with Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center's Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative as well as increasing state support for breastfeeding mothers
- **Medicaid insurance coverage** – Increasing education about, and advocating for better access to, Medicaid insurance coverage in New Hampshire
- **Immigration and health care** – understanding health care for legal and illegal immigrants as well as how changes to CHIP affect access to Medicaid for children of immigrants in New Hampshire and Vermont. Access and outcomes for children in immigrant poverty have also been a focus.
- **The Haven** – providing regular education sessions at The Haven, a local shelter for families
- **Child Health Services** – providing school supplies to children at the Child Health Services clinic in Manchester, NH
- **HIV/AIDS** – education and testing adolescents and adults



