

HealthReach Community Health Centers



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Rita LaBarbera, LCSW, CSP, MFA/W joins Belgrade Regional Health Center

BELGRADE—Rita Alfonso LaBarbera is a clinical social worker who will be joining the staff at Belgrade Regional Health Center in August. Patients have been pleased to access on-site assistance with handling issues that affect their overall wellness. These may include coping with chronic conditions, emotional challenges, or a new diagnosis.

Rita completed a Master of Social Work degree at Boston University in 1990. Previously she obtained an undergraduate degree at Goddard College, VT where she also completed a Masters in Fine Arts/Writing degree in 2003. She brings over 31 years of experience working with people of all ages in outpatient, residential, crisis, private practice, and education settings. Her clinical areas of expertise include women's issues, LGBTQ, depression, elders, transitions, and relationship issues.



Rita explained that her reason for joining HealthReach is the opportunity to return to her clinical roots. “I have spent many years in supervisory and leadership positions and now want to have more time to write and paint, enjoy Maine, bring to the clinical practice the richness of my experiences as well as my talents to help patients feel their lives are full of purpose and are meaningful. Engaging in a therapeutic relationship is an honor that necessitates care, consideration for differences, supports exploration and the hard work of change. I am especially interested in working with a team in the ways one can in such a practice that enhances the lives of patients and their families while at the same time supporting the work done by the medical providers.”

Rita will be joining physicians Amy Madden and Michael Landrum, nurse practitioners Jennifer Caudell, Katie Gillihan, and Josephine Poulin, and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner Dianne Raymond. Belgrade Regional Health Center offers a range of services including family medical care, counseling, and care management to residents of Belgrade, Mount Vernon, Augusta, Rome, Oakland, Sidney, Belgrade Lakes, Waterville and neighboring towns.

HealthReach Community Health Centers is comprised of eleven Federally Qualified Health Centers in Central and Western Maine. Dedicated providers deliver high quality medical and behavioral health care to citizens in over 80 rural communities. To ensure access to everyone, HealthReach accepts Medicare, MaineCare and major insurances. In addition, an Affordable Care Program is available to uninsured and underinsured residents as well as assistance with applications for programs that help with the cost of health care and medications including the Health Insurance Marketplace.

A private non-profit with a 46-year history, HealthReach is funded by patient fees, grants and by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$4,815,606 with 82.2 percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor are an endorsement by, the HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

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