Providence Community Health Centers, Inc.

Residency in Primary Care Optometry
Emphasis Areas: Community Health and Ocular Disease

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Rebecca Ray Doyle, OD
SITE LOCATION: The Providence Community Health Centers, Inc.
Optometry Clinic
335R Prairie Avenue
Providence, RI 02905
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ESTABLISHED: 2019
NUMBER OF POSITIONS: Two

PURPOSE: To establish a cooperative residency program between the Providence Community Health Centers, Inc. (PCHC) and New England College of Optometry (NECO).

INTRODUCTION:
Founded in 1968, Providence Community Health Center (PCHC) is a federally qualified health center providing primary care and specialty services at locations throughout the city of Providence. In December, 2012, optometry services were added for our patients and by July 2021, PCHC has expanded its optometry services to six optometrists who provide services six days a week. In addition, we have successfully partnered with the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Services and The New England College of Optometry and provide five student internships. PCHC Optometry clinic offers high quality eye care services including comprehensive eye exams for health and vision problems, diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases, detection and identification of health problems manifesting in the eye (diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.), vision screenings for children and eye glass prescriptions.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The residency program will provide advanced optometry training and experience in the delivery of comprehensive eye care in an interdisciplinary Federal Qualified Health Center. The program will provide quality-based, patient centered and affordable eye care services to the underserved, low income and uninsured patients in the Providence community.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

GOAL 1 To provide comprehensive clinical training to enhance the resident's skills in clinical decision making, treatment and management of eye diseases and conditions in the delivery of primary eye care services to a culturally diverse patient population.

- **Objective A:** The program curriculum will provide direct clinical care for the first 3-6 months, allowing the resident to develop expertise in the areas of refraction, management of binocular and accommodative disorders, ocular disease and systemic disorders, diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma, surgical co-management, pediatric optometry and specialty contact lenses. Autonomy will increase during the second half of the residency program.

- **Objective B:** The resident will learn to recognize and diagnose distinctive signs and symptoms for the vast majority of normally encountered ocular diseases as well as infrequently encountered conditions and presentations by developing advanced technological and interpretation skills, learning and identifying differential diagnosis, as well as mastering appropriate testing strategies.
- **Objective C:** The resident will strengthen their knowledge base while gaining clinical expertise in determining effective treatment and management plans, for a wide-range of ocular conditions. The resident's knowledge of ocular and systemic pharmacological agents along with potential side-effects will be strengthened.
- **Objective D:** The resident will supplement his (her) optometric training with in-house rotations through PCHC's primary care sites to cultivate communication competencies for conveying patient education to a multi-lingual, culturally diverse and low health literacy patient population.
- **Objective E:** The residents will gain knowledge in the economics of health care delivery in a community health center (grants, coding methodologies and payment systems)
- **Objective F:** The resident will accrue at least 1,200 patient encounters during AY 2023-24. The patient mix will provide the resident at least one hundred encounters of each of the following primary diagnoses: glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, anterior segment disease.

GOAL 2 To develop the resident's proficiency in effective decision making, increase patient management responsibilities, and coordination of care with the optometry care team, PCHC and community-based multi-disciplinary providers.

- **Objective A:** Interactions with the attending optometrists and other medical providers will improve case analysis and management practices as well as instill effective communication methods for discussing and documenting clinical information with the care team and other medical providers in order to provide optimal patient care.
- **Objective B:** With supervision and collaborative interaction with the attending optometrist, the resident will understand the concepts of co-management and referral protocols when consulting with ophthalmologists and other medical providers.
- **Objective C:** The resident will attend monthly medical staff meetings, a forum used to provide clinical information and updates, as well as an opportunity for interaction among providers about clinical and patient topics.

GOAL 3 Participation in scholarly activities and research will encourage an appreciation of the importance of scholastic contribution and commitment to life-long learning.

- **Objective A:** The resident will be required (in collaboration with the residency faculty) to prepare and submit an abstract for Residents Day at the Annual Meeting of the AAO.
- **Objective B:** The resident will be required to prepare and present at least one report during the year at the monthly medical staff meetings.
- **Objective C:** The resident will be required to develop and give a formal presentation on a community health project or clinical case report at the Annual NECO Spring

Residency Conference.

- **Objective D:** The resident will be required to complete either a manuscript of publishable quality or a scholarship research project, due at or around the final weeks of the residency.
- **Objective E:** The resident will attend both local and national continuing education programs and professional meetings to stimulate scholarly activity.
- **Objective F:** The resident will be involved in presenting as well as organizing In Service Eye presentations, Journal Club and Clinical Mini Rounds

GOAL 4 The resident's ability to communicate and teach as an optometric educator will be enhanced.

- **Objective A:** In conjunction with the resident's clinical progress, the program's supervision policy, the resident will participate in clinical preceptor activities of the optometric interns at PCHC.

GOAL 5 Provide opportunities and encourage community engagement to help improve health and health behaviors of its residents.

- **Objective A:** In coordination with PCHC's Community Relations Director, the resident will participate in at least one community health event.

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Monday:	Patient Care	9 am – 5 pm
Tuesday:	Patient Care	9 am- 5 pm
Wednesday:	Patient Care	9 am- 5 pm
Thursday:	Professional development and monthly medical staff meeting 11:30-1:30	
	Patient Care	1:30 pm – 8 pm
Friday:	Patient Care	9 am – 5 pm

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY:

The residency is one year in length commencing July 1st and ending June 30th of the following year.

STIPEND/BENEFIT PACKAGE:

- The annual compensation stipend will be $55,120 applicable for a status of full time, 40 hours.
- All applicable PCHC full time health and welfare benefits will apply. For benefit products with an employee co-share, the nonunion applicable employee co-share cost will apply.
- Paid holiday time under the schedule of PCHC recognized holidays.
- Ten (10) paid days of vacation.
- Six (6) paid sick days.
- $850 annual CME.
- Five (5) paid CME days.
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Full NECO library privileges

- Tuition waiver at NECO-sponsored continuing education courses

RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

1. To attend all scheduled clinic sessions as assigned (not including excused absences) and demonstrate appropriate professional conduct at all times.
2. To demonstrate the necessary clinical skills, expertise and progress, as well as the appropriate professional attitude commensurate with the program's mission, goals and objectives.
3. To attend all formal NECO residency conferences and any other designated educational programs that have been selected by mutual agreement.
4. To complete a scholarship project and submit the corresponding manuscript to the program director by the end of the residency year.
5. To maintain an accurate Patient Log of all patients seen during the residency.
6. To maintain an Activities Log of all non-clinical activities during the residency.
7. To complete all NECO program and preceptor evaluations and questionnaires as required in a timely manner.
8. The resident must obtain a license to practice optometry in Rhode Island as early as possible in the residency and no later than the last day of the residency year to be awarded a completion certificate.

MINIMIUM ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicants must have earned a Doctor of Optometry degree from a school or college of optometry with an ACOE accreditation status prior to the onset of the program year.
- Successful completion of National Boards Parts I, II, and III is strongly encouraged.
- Applicants must be eligible for optometric licensure in the State of Rhode Island at the earliest opportunity.
- Applicants must be available for either a personal or virtual interview.
- Candidates apply through the OR Match: https://natmatch.com/ormatch/. The deadline is January 39, 2027.

Applicants should submit the following materials in a timely manner:

- Current curriculum vitae
- Letter of intent
- Official optometry school transcripts
- Official NBEO scores
- 3 letters of recommendation that includes at least one from a current or previous clinical preceptor

Providence Community Health Centers are equal opportunity employers. They do not and will not discriminate against any person because of race, sex, religion, color, creed, disability, marital or parental status, sexual preference or national origin.

Applicants are notified by the program coordinator when all the required application materials have been received.

ACCREDITATION STATUS:

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) has granted the Providence Community Health Center Residency in Primary Care Optometry the accreditation status of "Accredited." Accredited is a classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program generally meets the Standards for accreditation. For more information, see the ACOE's website at www.theACOE.org or contact the ACOE at accredit@theacoe.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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