

7/13/26

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Daniel Robb, BH Integration Manager at the Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Boston Children's Hospital, and I am writing to nominate my colleague Maria "Chus" Arrojo for the 2026 CFHA Pediatric Integrated Care Award.

This award recognizes individuals whose work reflects a commitment to improving youth health through a holistic, integrated, and equitable lens. In the eight years I have known Chus, and the five years I have worked alongside her, I have rarely seen an interaction in which that commitment was not fully evident. Chus has been a central figure in expanding the pediatric integrated care model for youth in Western Massachusetts, a rural and relatively underserved region of the state, especially in comparison with the academic hub of Boston.

Chus' interest in holistic health can be traced to her childhood. She grew up on the Galician coast in a home located above a mental health hospital where her parents worked. Her daily life unfolded alongside the care of the patients and clients they served. She has described this blending of the personal and clinical worlds as foundational to her professional path.

Her interest in serving families continued through her master's degree in psychology from Universidad Complutense de Madrid. After arriving in Western Massachusetts, she earned a Certificate of Advanced General Studies in Marriage and Family Therapy from Springfield College and went on to provide outpatient care grounded in a family-focused approach. She joined Behavioral Health Network, Inc. in 2008 and became Integrated Care Program Director in 2014 after completing her certificate in PCBH at UMass Medical School with Sandy Blount. Her work expanded from developing an integrated model at a federally qualified health center to consulting with specialty behavioral health systems to increase access and deliver needed services in primary care.

At the PPOC, Chus has expanded both the reach and the vision of integrated care beyond Western Massachusetts. In addition to working directly with practices in the region, she has transformed provider education, a cornerstone of the BH Integration program, to

reflect the team-based, holistic care she has always championed. She consistently works to break down silos, both within the practices she serves and within the organization itself.

Her approach to helping clinical teams evolve from co-located models to more fully integrated care has shaped both my own approach and that of my colleagues. Her leadership is anchored in an uncompromisingly collaborative style and an unrelenting focus on equity for patients and medical professionals alike. Chus' drive is evident in the questions she is always asking: What comes next? How does this decision reflect our values of access and quality for families?

Chus' clinical expertise, extensive experience in integrated care, and unfailing encouragement are evident across all of her roles. Members of CFHA know her as editor of the Integrated News blog, former co-chair and current member of the Pediatric SIG, and a frequent presenter on cutting-edge approaches to care. Across Massachusetts, countless colleagues in behavioral health and medicine—and, most importantly, families—have been positively impacted by these same qualities. I cannot overstate her influence on my own professional development and on my confidence to stand up for the values I believe in.

For these reasons and many more, I am honored to nominate Chus for this award. Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Robb, MSW, LICSW

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