

HealthReach Community Health Centers



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Strong Area Health Center welcomes Nichole Yeaton, FNP

STRONG—Nichole Yeaton, FNP will be joining Strong Area Health Center in May. She completed the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Walden University in 2018. Previously, she obtained a BA in Psychology at the University of Maine at Farmington, an associate's degree in Nursing at Central Maine Medical Center School of Nursing, and a MBA at the University of Utah. She brings 16 years of registered nurse experience.



Niki recently shared: “Having grown up in the Western Foothills of Maine, returning to my local community as a healthcare provider brings me full circle. I met Dr. Schwink many years ago as she was caring for a family member. What struck me the most was her compassion and approach to healthcare. In deciding on a region to practice my profession, the Strong Area Health Center came to mind. I wanted to join a group of providers who value high quality affordable healthcare where the patient is the center of that care.”

She continued, “Having some of the best hiking and skiing in my backyard is also a strong draw to the region. I spent many years on the Titcomb Mountain Ski Patrol before retiring to spend more time pursuing my career as a FNP. Raising a family in rural Maine offers many different opportunities for improving our outdoor quality of life. I look forward to reacquainting myself and my family to the Mountains of Maine.”

Regarding her philosophy of care, Niki stated, “I believe in providing patients with the education they need to make their individual healthcare decisions. I do not believe that healthcare is a “one size fits all or else” modality. By ensuring patients have an understanding as to why we want to improve their health, we are arming them with the power to affect their lives for the better. Franklin County and the Strong area are well known for having hardworking residents who value their independence and freedom to choose. By actively listening and hearing what our patients are telling us, I hope to create a collaborative relationship with the patients and families of Strong and the local communities.”

Niki will be joining physician Ann Schwink and physician assistant Madelyn Besse who provide healthcare, Kelly Bell Bragg who offers psychiatric medication management, and Katherine Kemp who works with patients on behavioral health needs. In addition, the health center houses a dental center where Dr. George Ditomassi, as well as hygienists Sharon Smith-Bouchard and Briana Beedy, offer oral health services.

Strong Area Health Center is part of HealthReach Community Health Centers, a system of eleven Federally Qualified Health Centers in Central and Western Maine. Dedicated providers deliver high-quality medical and behavioral healthcare 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 healthcare and medications, including the Health Insurance Marketplace.

A private non-profit with a 44-year history, HealthReach is funded by patient fees, grants and by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$4,053,390 with 82.5 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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