

## **Community Celebrates the Launch of MVES Wellness Nurse Program**

CHELSEA\_ State officials, city leaders and Chelsea Housing Authority residents gathered recently to help Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES) launch a new public health program.

With the Wellness Nurse Program, MVES embeds an on-site nurse at 14 Bloomingdale St., a Chelsea Housing Authority building. The Wellness Nurse conducts weekly office hours with an open-door policy, enabling residents to check in for guidance and care.

“Chelsea is a place where we come together to help each other. These services aren’t offered everywhere. We’re very lucky to have such strong partnerships,” said City Manager Fidel Maltez.

MVES launched the pilot Wellness Nurse Program last year at two Malden locations, followed by expansion to sites in Chelsea and Everett.

There was a festive atmosphere at 14 Bloomingdale St. as the community celebrated the new Wellness Nurse Program in both English and Spanish. The audience learned about how the program was developed and how it benefits residents. MVES provided healthy refreshments from Chelsea’s Aloe Natural - Acai & Coffee Shop for guests to enjoy as they socialized and discussed health and wellness topics.

“Mystic Valley Elder Services is grateful for Chelsea’s commitment to health, which made this partnership possible,” said Lisa Gurgone, Chief Executive Officer of MVES. “Having a nurse on-site makes a profound impact on the well-being of older adults and people with disabilities. We are thrilled to bring this program to Chelsea.”

The Wellness Nurse, Katelyn McCann, is available to check vital signs and assist with a wide variety of medication and health questions. She also helps coordinate special health events and assists residents in completing File of Life documents that convey critical personal health information to first responders in the event of an emergency. The MVES Resident Service Coordinator at 14 Bloomingdale, Roberto Tobalino, reports she has already had a great turnout of residents.

The Wellness Nurse Program is made possible by a grant from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), with federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

**-30-**

**About Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES):** Since 1975, MVES has worked to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities have the support they need to live independently and with dignity. Located in Malden, Mass., the non-profit agency provides information, care and resources to residents of Chelsea and 10 nearby communities. Services include information and referral, management, home care, elder protective services, health insurance counseling, caregiver supports, transportation, Meals on Wheels, and more. For more information, call 781-324-7705 or visit [www.mves.org](http://www.mves.org).



*Left to right: City Councilor Leo Robinson, Chelsea Housing Authority Executive Director Paul Nowicki, Chelsea Director of Elder Services Tracy Nowicki, City Council President Norieliz DeJesus, MVES Nursing and Transitional Care Director Lisa Jimenez, MA Representative Judith Garcia, MVES Wellness Nurse Katelyn McCann, Chelsea Housing Authority Director of Operations Matt Frank, MVES COO Lesley Nolan, MA Senator Sal DiDomenico, MVES CEO Lisa Gurgone, City Manager Fidel Maltez, City Councilor Manuel Teshe, and MVES Resident Service Coordinator Roberto Tobalino.*

*Left to right: MVES COO Lesley Nolan Chelsea, Director of Public Health Flor Amaya, MA EOEA Director of Public Health Policy and Outreach Deanna Mazina, and MVES CEO Lisa Gurgone.*



*Lisa Felci Jimenez, Nursing and Transitional Care Director at MVES, is all smiles as she chats with MA Senator Sal DiDomenico.*



*Residents of 14 Bloomingdale St. were excited to learn about the MVES Wellness Nurse Program launched at their building, and enjoyed the kickoff celebration for the program.*