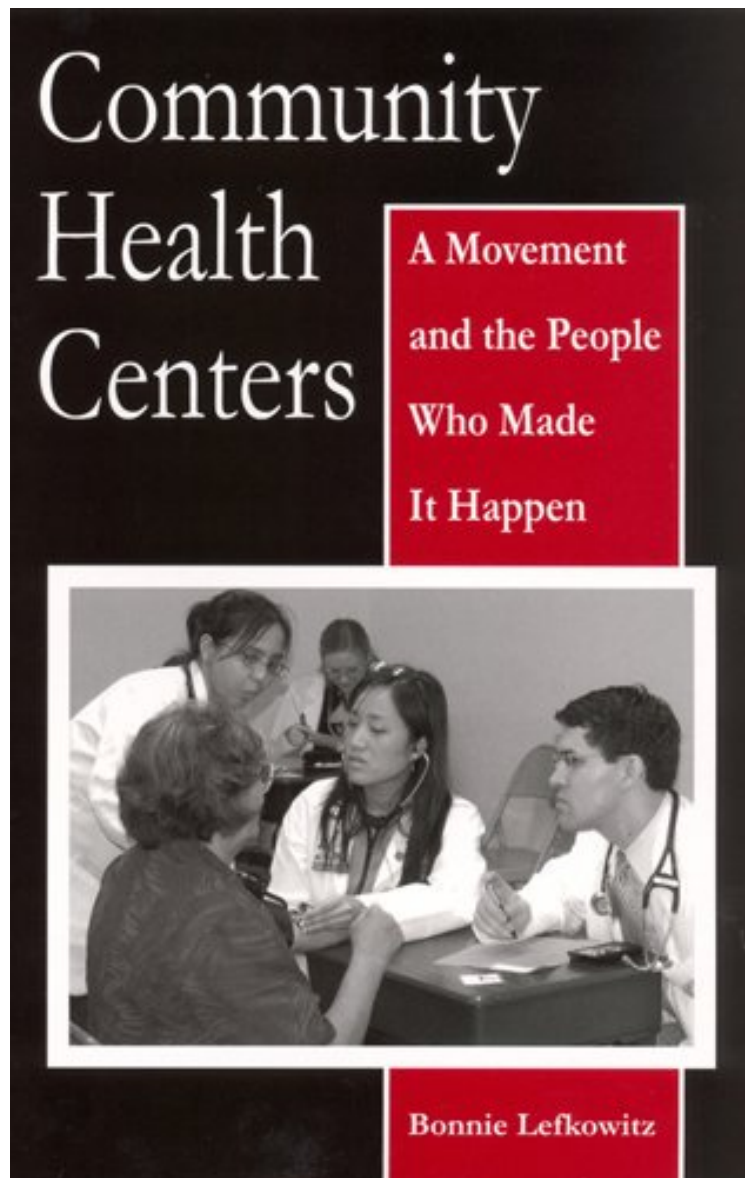


(Library ebook) Community Health Centers: A Movement and the People Who Made It Happen (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)

## Community Health Centers: A Movement and the People Who Made It Happen (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)

*Ms. Bonnie Lefkowitz*

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#859552 in Books Rutgers University Press 2007-01-09Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .45 x 5.98l, .68 #File Name: 0813539129192 pages | File size: 15.Mb

**Ms. Bonnie Lefkowitz : Community Health Centers: A Movement and the People Who Made It Happen (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Community Health Centers: A Movement and the People Who Made It Happen (Critical Issues in

Health and Medicine):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I couldn't put it downBy Paul S. JellinekLike so much that came out of the sixties, the community health center movement was fueled by a combination of outrage and love. Bonnie Lefkowitz brilliantly captures both in this vivid account of the remarkable people who made it happen, both at the national level and in five very different communities. I couldn't put it down.0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A passionate, wonderful bookBy E. ClarkThis is a wonderful book. Congratulations to the author and the people she writes about. Thanks.Community Health Centers: A Movement and the People Who Made It Happen (Critical Issues in Health and Medicine)3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Book ReviewBy Food FanI just read an informative book review about this book in JAMA that I thought others might find useful.[..]JAMA. 2009;301(5):551-552.At first blush, I was skeptical about this little book, because I was expecting an activist work laced with generalizations. Instead, Lefkowitz has produced an annotated history of community health centers in the United States. This history is important, because many physicians who entered practice after the 1960s do not know that few comprehensive health clinics existed in poor communities prior to that decade. The reality was that economically disadvantaged families who could not pay for private physician care had to ride buses across town to inconvenient hospital clinics. There they would wait for additional hours on benches at urban charity hospitals to be seen by residents and instructors who largely thought of them as teaching material. In rural settings, these low-income patients were largely dependent on quick prescriptions by physicians who saw them in racially segregated facilities.While history has been an especially sleepy subject for me since I was in junior high school, Lefkowitz makes the politics, legislative struggles, and social conflict come alive. The tales she tells about the incidence of parasitic disease, infant mortality, and untreated hypertension and diabetes in rural US populations sound like a novel set in a developing country. These accounts are, however, carefully researched and are supplemented by oral histories to give them flavor and substance. The book quickly picks up momentum and becomes riveting.Lefkowitz is a health policy researcher who has been a reporter for Newsweek and who has published extensively on the social determinants of health. She has a unique background, having spent 2 decades working in federal agencies. This enables her to explain the drama of how federal funding for health centers has ebbed and flowed from Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, and George W. Bush. The dramas behind this funding are almost Shakespearean at times and lead to unexpected results. For example, funding has tended to expand under conservative administrations and stall under liberal presidents and liberal federal department secretaries. Federally qualified health centers have arguably expanded in their reach and effectiveness under the conservative tenure of President George W. Bush. Lefkowitz' account of the need for services in poor areas is vividly detailed, seamlessly blending back-country depictions of poverty with statistics and references to books from respected New York publishing houses, congressional reports, PhD theses, and some peer-reviewed medical journals. She cites some interview sources from first-person observers, mainly surviving community health care workers from the 1960s. These interview quotes weave in oral histories, which enhance the value for present-day thought leaders.Grassroots narratives give the pages of the book a verve that sings like a country blues song hitchhiking from the Mississippi delta then traveling from southern to northern cities and back to Hispanic Texas border towns.The value of telling these tales in 5 diverse settings comes together in chapter 7, where common themes (leadership, governance, local politics, culture) are analyzed and synthesized along with additional summary themes (excellence and values). Lefkowitz points out challenges to the preexisting health system (or the lack of one). After commenting on commonalities between the different centers and settings, she then gives readers questions and challenges for the future. This meritorious work is scholarly, passionate, balanced, and nonpolemical. I recommend this splendid book to anyone who treats low-income families as part of their health care mission. Better understanding of the antecedents of current federally qualified health centers will help craft better public policy for addressing these challenges in the next decades.Prentiss Taylor, MD, ReviewerAdvocate Health Centers/Avocate Health CareChicago, Illinois[...]

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has placed a national spotlight on the shameful state of healthcare for America's poor. In the face of this highly publicized disaster, public health experts are more concerned than ever about persistent disparities that result from income and race. This book tells the story of one groundbreaking approach to medicine that attacks the problem by focusing on the wellness of whole neighborhoods. Since their creation during the 1960s, community health centers have served the needs of the poor in the tenements of New York, the colonias of Texas, the working class neighborhoods of Boston, and the dirt farms of the South. As products of the civil rights movement, the early centers provided not only primary and preventive care, but also social and environmental services, economic development, and empowerment. Bonnie Lefkowitz-herself a veteran of community health administration-explores the program's unlikely transformation from a small and beleaguered demonstration effort to a network of close to a thousand modern health care organizations serving nearly 15 million people. In a series of personal accounts and interviews with national leaders and dozens of health care workers, patients, and activists in five communities across the United States, she shows how health centers have endured despite cynicism and inertia, the vagaries of politics,

and ongoing discrimination.

This lyrical book offers an intimate view of the role of community leadership in the creation of health centers, one of the most important chapters in the history of U.S. health policy for the medically underserved. Bonnie Lefkowitz's examination of health centers and community leadership should be required reading in public health leadership programs everywhere.