



News & Notes

FY 2020

4th Quarter

September 2020

COASTAL CONNECT HIE OPERATIONS UPDATE



KARON CASEY

In March of this year, CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) released new guidelines for encounter notifications as part of their Condition of Participation (CoP) requirements. Coastal Connect HIE's NOTIFY™ application can help meet these requirements thanks to its ability to alert subscribers via text message or email (based on their preference) for the encounter types they select. Currently, CCHIE is able to send encounter notifications on Admission, Discharge, and Transfer (ADT) feeds from Doshier Memorial Hospital, New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC), Onslow Memorial Hospital, Pender Memorial Hospital, Southeastern Health, and over sixty-five Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs).

Due to the COVID pandemic, CCHIE hosted its first Virtual Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 6th, with over one hundred attendees. We heard from Himformatics about the 21st Century Cures Act and CMS Final Ruling. Health Catalyst shared their roadmap for CCHIE's technology. Our CEO, Yvonne Hughes, wrapped up the event with an update on CCHIE's ongoing initiatives and introduced our "Interoperability Matters" video, where which featured national and regional HIE use cases. On behalf of the entire CCHIE team, we sincerely appreciated our speakers and guests for making our first virtual event a memorable one! We plan to host next year's meeting at the Shell Island Resort.



CONNECTING TO COLLABORATE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES: REGIONAL RURAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE DAY 2020



YVONNE HUGHES

Over 90 people attended our Regional Rural Health Collaborative Day on Friday, October 2nd. CCHA partnered with UNC Wilmington's School of Nursing to host this one-day, multi-session event online for providers, academic partners, and community stakeholders throughout the region.

The nine-session agenda covered a variety of topics with an emphasis on rural healthcare and its unique challenges. These included panel discussions on hybrid service delivery models that utilize telemedicine, strategies for overcoming patient access hurdles, integrating students into the rural healthcare workforce, as well as community resources and outreach.

Members of the Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear team provided an overview of what a typical day is like for a rural health interdisciplinary team. Dr. Anka Roberto of UNCW's Nursing School addressed steps toward achieving and maintaining resiliency in rural healthcare. Megan Carlson of the NCCARE360 / Unite Us team shared information about how the NCCARE360 network will connect those with identified needs to community resources such as access to healthy food, safe and affordable housing, or well-paying jobs. Monifa Charles of NC

Office of Rural Health, presented several funding opportunities available for rural healthcare providers and health-based initiatives.

Dr. Laura Gerald, President of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, gave a keynote address on the Trust's work. Dr. Gerald is a board-certified pediatrician, a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics, and an adjunct assistant professor at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Formerly, she was State Health Director for NC and Director of the Division of Public Health. Thus, she drew upon her wealth of knowledge and experience to demonstrate how systems change is at the heart of improved health outcomes at local and state levels.

These panels and speakers generated dialogue and ideas from attendees throughout the day. We hope this event helped equip them with new resources and strategies to improve their workflows and enhance the quality of patient care. We plan to make the Regional Rural Health Collaborative Day an annual event that continues to convene diverse topics and unique speakers.

We'd like to recognize both Dr. Stephanie Smith of UNCW's School of Nursing and Karon Casey of the Coastal Connect HIE team for their hard work and dedication to coordinating this event!

INNOVATIVE SANE TRAINING BOOSTS SKILLS & CONFIDENCE



EMILY TURNER

CCHA's grant-funded Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program is helping prepare nurses across the region to become licensed "SANEs" through a combination of classroom and hands-on training. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to improvise and identify online options to continue providing education. Now that limited in-person meetings are able to convene, we've begun planning new training opportunities.

On August 15th, CCHA hosted a skills training for SANEs at Onslow Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, NC. For the skills training CCHA contracted with Clinical Practice Resources for their Gynecological Teach Associates (GTAs) to provide proctored SANE exams for SANE trainees. GTAs are women who have received medical training on how to teach medical personnel to provide pelvic examinations, visualize the cervix, assess the female anatomy, and complete a trauma informed exam. The

training was the first of its kind for CCHA and our region and was fortunately a great success! One of the trainees who attended the skills training said, "The GTAs were so excellent and gave amazing guidance as well as helped us become more comfortable with our skills and ways to put the patient more at ease with what is a very sensitive situation. I cannot recommend them enough."



This resource was especially beneficial for our trainees because their first proctored exams were not performed on actual survivors of sexual violence. Instead, they were able to practice providing pelvic examinations until they felt comfortable and competent enough in their skills. This also prevents re-traumatizing sexual assault survivors during their kit and examination. We plan to continue using GTAs for future training events.

CCHA OPERATIONS: TWO NEW GRANTS & STAFF CHANGES



BARB BIEHNER

Thanks to efforts by our CCHA/CCHIE staff as well as our magnificent project teams, which are comprised of representatives from member hospitals, our organization continues to successfully pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic. The past several months have required us to be flexible and dynamic in order to maintain a strong member ROI while driving new initiatives.

CCHA has launched two new grant-funded projects: Mobile Simulation Program (MSP) training at regional Skilled Nursing Facilities (NC Culture Grant) and mobile primary care services for migrant farm workers (The Cannon Foundation

grant). Both initiatives have received strong support and input from many project teams, such as our Community Health Team.

Internally, we've had a couple of staff changes. First, Stephanie Sims has been promoted to Manager of Clinical Education and Simulation for CCHA's MSP. Stephanie has worked with the MSP since 2016, and we're thrilled to now have her lead the program. Secondly, Brian Piccirilli will pursue a new job opportunity outside of CCHA. Brian initially joined the Coastal Connect HIE team in 2016 and eventually transitioned over to CCHA, where he supported teams, contracts, and ongoing operations.

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FIRST VIRTUAL RESIDENTS RECEPTION A SUCCESS



BOBBY DEIGNAN

Each year, CCHA hosts multiple Resident Receptions to promote job openings and career opportunities at member hospitals. By connecting hospital residents with physician recruiters, we support keeping that workforce and talent within the region. Typically, we host these events in Wilmington, Greenville, and, most recently, Fayetteville; however, COVID-19 restrictions prevented us from planning any in-person events. Rather than cancel our Receptions, CCHA worked with PracticeMatch to move the event online. On August 27th, 139 residents attended our Virtual Residents Reception event with positive results. Despite limitations due to the pandemic, we were able to connect prospective providers with jobs in this region.