



a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

December 27, 2018

News Headlines

Innovation Fund Applications Due by January 11

The deadline for AHI PPS partners to submit a DSRIP Innovation Fund Round IV online application is close of business, Friday, January 11. As a reminder, submitted projects must be innovative in nature and involve multiple

partners, including a project lead safety-net provider. Projects must be strongly aligned with pay-for-performance metrics, and preference will be given to those with the most promise for achieving positive, far-reaching results. Replicability and sustainability are other key components to be considered. Click below to learn more and access the application, budget workbook, a FAQ sheet, scoring matrix, and scoring instructions. Questions, including ascertaining an organization's safety-net status, may be submitted to dsripahi@ahihealth.org.

DSRIP New York's Delivery System Reform
Incentive Payment Program

Innovation Fund Round IV



[Click here to learn more and access the online application.](#)

DSRIP Year 3 Pay-for-Performance Methodology Finalized

The AHI PPS in October finalized the pay-for-performance (P4P) methodology for DSRIP Year 3. The PPS plans to distribute an estimated \$17.6 million to partners using this methodology. Payments will be made in two installments following the receipt of DSRIP funds from the NYS Department of Health. The first installment of \$10.03 million, which represents 57 percent of the total PPS and partner pools, will be paid in the coming weeks. The second payment will follow receipt of our next DOH payment. The PHN pool, which is separate, will be paid upon PHN determination. Contact dsripahi@ahihealth.org with questions.

[Click here to see the funding allocation methodology.](#)

AHI, Partners Land Grant to Educate, Protect Insurance Rights

AHI's [Enrollment Assistance Services and Education \(EASE\)](#) program and partners [Behavioral Health Services North](#) and [Citizen Advocates, Inc.](#) have landed a new six-month grant from the New York State Offices of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Financial Services. The NYS Behavioral Health Ombudsman Program, *Community Health Access to Addiction and Mental*

Healthcare Project (CHAMP), aims to ensure all New Yorkers are able to access insurance coverage for substance use disorders and/or mental health services. The program, which begins January 1, will educate individuals, families and health care providers on legal rights to coverage, improve access to treatment and services, and investigate and resolve health insurance coverage denial cases. The program will cover nine local counties. For more information, contact Joyce Porter at jporter@ahihealth.org, or 518.480.0111, ext. 501.

MAXny Series Propels Medicaid System Reform

The [Medicaid Accelerated eXchange New York \(MAXny\) Series](#) has been enormously successful in helping front-line clinicians lead health care system reform efforts. The series, which held an action team session for Plattsburgh partners at [The University of Vermont Health Network - Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital](#) earlier this month, has helped spur measurable increases in screening rates and connections to services, process improvement capacity building, and the development of meaningful collaboration among partners across the North Country. The MAX Series focuses on the relatively small proportion of patients who account for a disproportionate amount of utilization and cost (super utilizers). The initiative is closely aligned with DSRIP Program goals of transforming the health care delivery system, reducing avoidable hospital use, and providing better care to those most in need.



Population Health Improvement Program Reflects on Accomplishments, Looks Ahead to 2019

AHI's [North Country Population Health Improvement Program \(NC PHIP\)](#) hosted a very productive stakeholder meeting last week in Lake Placid. A number of meeting speakers, representing a cross-section of partner organizations, shared 2018 accomplishments, including Linda Beers, [Essex County Public Health](#), who discussed the county's successful efforts to raise the minimum legal sale age of tobacco products to 21. Looking ahead to 2019, Paul Cummings from [The Chazen Companies](#) demonstrated North Country health indicator maps that can be used to inform strategies for tackling such issues as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes, while AHI's Jessica Chanese (pictured) introduced the region's new coordinated referral and care management network, [ADK Wellness Connections](#).



Partner Success Stories

UVMHN – CVPH Battles Malnutrition



Studies estimate nearly one in five pediatric patients and one in three adults aged 60 and older are malnourished. Malnourished patients often experience lengthier hospital stays, higher rates of complications, and increased costs. In response to this crisis, [The University of Vermont Health Network - Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital](#) formed a malnutrition steering committee. The committee implemented best practice guidelines via a phased approach, focusing initially on screening for malnutrition

characteristics. Findings have been used to create patient-centered care and treatment plans. From 2013 to 2017, readmissions for medically-malnourished patients decreased from 32.6 to 17.7 percent; malnutrition diagnoses increased from 109 to 744; and average length of stay was reduced from 20.4 to 14.5 days.

[Click here to read the full HANYS article.](#)

Training Sessions, Meetings and Events

Telehealth Learning Collaborative, Jan. 14



The [North Country Telehealth Partnership](#) is holding their next Telehealth Learning Collaborative webinar 2:00-3:00 p.m., Monday, January 14. The webinar will feature Dr. Frank Corigliano of Healthy Connections Psychological Services speaking about the telehealth

provider experience. Dr. Corigliano will share recommendations for growing your telemedicine practice, tips for ensuring successful visits, and insights into billing navigation. Goals of the webinar series are to help participants better understand issues related to telemedicine implementation, partner with agencies that regulate telemedicine, facilitate discussions with payers, and expand the use of telemedicine. For more information on this session or the series, contact Katy Cook at kcook@ahihealth.org, or 518.480.0111, ext. 315.

[Click here to register.](#)



Behavioral Health Workforce Webinar Series

Four-part Webinar training series on Recruitment and Retention strategies and best practices for Behavioral Health Practitioners.

The *third of four* webinar trainings will be:

Addressing Behavioral Health Needs through Telehealth

Addressing behavioral health needs can be a challenge in any community, and the difficulties can be magnified in rural areas. Geographical limitations can affect a region's ability to recruit and retain a competent behavioral workforce. Join us to learn more about how two local communities are addressing behavioral health needs through telehealth. You will learn about their process with implementing telehealth, successes and challenges, issues with implementation, lessons learned, and more.

January 15, 2018
1:00pm - 2:00pm

To register, please visit:
<https://zoom.us/join/0b460ff027ae23b34ac87b605f06faf5>

***Please include credentials when registering*

1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 374-990-905

More information will be shared on the final session taking place on: February 12, 2019.



Presented by:

Katy Cook, Telehealth Project Manager, Adirondack Health Institute

Robert Kleppang, LMSW, ACSW, Director, Hamilton County Community Services

Annie McKinley, Assistant Director, Essex County Mental Health Services

Terri Morse, Director, Essex County Mental Health Services

This webinar will focus on the successes and challenges of implementing and utilizing telepsychiatry in the North Country. Panelists will discuss how telepsychiatry is working to serve North Country residents in rural areas, how these programs were deployed, and how they help to provide access to specialty care and be a creative solution to the behavioral health workforce shortage.

Please direct questions to the AHI Workforce Team, DSRIPWorkforce@ahihealth.org

[Click here to register.](#)

DSRIP Learning Symposium, Feb. 11-13 in Saratoga Springs

The 4th Annual DSRIP Learning Symposium is slated for Monday, February 11-Wednesday, February 13, at the Saratoga Springs City Center. The event will feature an impact exhibition and poster reception spotlighting successful initiatives implemented by the state's 25 Performing Provider Systems (PPS), breakout sessions, workshops, "sprint sessions," and keynote speakers Lisa Bielamowicz, MD, Gist Healthcare, Jody Hoffer Gittell, PhD, Relational Coordination Research Collaborative, and Don Berwick, MD, Institute for Healthcare Improvement. For more details, including the event agenda, read the [DSRIP Symposium Guide](#). Contact statewidesymposium@pcgus.com with questions.



[Click here for registration and accommodation information.](#)

[Submit Your Content](#)

AHI partners in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties are encouraged to submit content to Phil Kahn at communications@ahihealth.org to be considered for inclusion in *AHI Informer*.

Adirondack Health Institute | 101 Ridge Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 | 518.480.0111
communications@ahihealth.org | www.ahihealth.org

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