



a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

November 27, 2019

News Headlines

ADK Wellness Connections Produces Resource Navigation and Referral Network Informational Videos for Providers

ADK Wellness Connections, a coordinated resource navigation and referral network sponsored by AHI, has produced informational videos aimed at local health care providers. The videos detail how the network helps connect individuals to a wide range of area services to improve their health and well-being, and serves as a helpful referral platform for providers.



**ADK WELLNESS
CONNECTIONS**

The video below left features partners St. Lawrence Health System, Maximizing Independent Living Choices, and the Health Initiative, describing their experiences using the network, while the animated video below right illustrates how the network makes it easier for providers to address their patients' unmet social needs.

If you have any questions, or are interested in joining the network, email ADKWellConnects@ahihealth.org.



Partner Success Story

Mountain View Pediatrics' HealthySteps Specialist Promotes Healthy Early Childhood Development, Effective Parenting

Enhancing healthy early childhood development and promoting effective parenting are the cornerstones of [HealthySteps](#), an evidence-based, interdisciplinary pediatric primary care program for babies and toddlers. The program, which emphasizes serving low-income populations, has proven to be of great help to patients and families of [Mountain View Pediatrics](#) in Plattsburgh, which received DSRIP innovation funding through the [Clinton County Community Services Board](#) and [Mental Health and Addiction Services](#) from the AHI Performing Provider System to support a full-time HealthySteps Specialist.



PEDIATRIC CARE • SUPPORTING • PARENTING
A Program of ZERO TO THREE

According to Robert Moore, MD, FAAP, one of the practice's providers, the HealthySteps Specialist, Christy Bezrutczyk, has worked with more than 500 families to date. "Christy sees patients under three during their well visits and spends her afternoons working with families and making outreach phone calls. She has been a great support for children in need, especially those with autism and behavior changes," stated Moore. "By broadening our primary care team, we're able to offer comprehensive support and the highest quality of care."

The practice connects families to resources to assist with mental health, domestic violence, food, and housing issues. It also offers guidance on common challenges such as feeding, behavior, sleep, and adapting to life with a baby or young child. "The program has also been a fantastic resource for providers to be able to refer to," said Moore. "We are grateful for the chance to offer these services to families in need."

Other News

Glens Falls Hospital, Albany Med Reach Strategic Affiliation Milestone

In September, [Glens Falls Hospital](#) and [Albany Med](#) announced they have taken the next step toward a strategic affiliation, approving the Definitive Agreement for GFH to become an affiliate of Albany Med. The agreement was approved by both boards following a nearly year-long due diligence process.



Glens Falls Hospital



ALBANY
MEDICAL
CENTER

"Glens Falls Hospital is evolving to ensure we are strong not just today, but for generations to come, and we are excited to have reached another significant milestone toward becoming an affiliate of Albany Med," said Dianne Shugrue, Glens Falls Hospital President and CEO. Both organizations will now begin working through the necessary regulatory approvals needed to finalize the affiliation, which is expected to be complete in 2020.

Citizen Advocates Advances Plans to Provide Outpatient Behavioral Health Services in Warren, Washington

Counties



The Warren and Washington County Community Services Boards gave initial approval on November 14 to transition the delivery of outpatient behavioral health services presently provided by [Glens Falls Hospital](#) to [Citizens Advocates](#). The go-ahead from the boards allows Citizen Advocates to apply for the state regulatory approvals needed to provide behavioral health services in the counties. The target date for completing the transition of services and workforce is Spring 2020.

"This provides us the opportunity to finalize a strategy for ensuring residents of Warren and Washington counties retain access to convenient and high-quality mental health and addiction services," said James Button, COO, Citizen Advocates.

"Increasing access to outpatient clinical services and a comprehensive range of behavioral health services in our community is essential," added Robert York, Director, [Office of Community Services for Warren & Washington Counties](#).

C.R. Wood Foundation Awards Special Healthcare Initiative Grant to Launch HHHN Mobile Health Program

The [Charles R. Wood Foundation](#) has awarded a \$1 million Special Healthcare Initiative Grant in support of [Hudson Headwaters Health Network's](#) Mobile



Health Pilot Project. The three-year pilot program will help HHHN plan and scale for the region's first primary care mobile health delivery system. HHHN expects the first mobile unit to be up and running by early 2021.

Working alongside community partners, data will help inform where best to deploy mobile resources to meet the needs of the region's most vulnerable communities. By the end of the pilot, HHHN anticipates having up to four mobile units in operation.

"Hudson Headwaters has a long-standing tradition of providing accessible health care in rural, hard-to-reach places. And we're no stranger to uncharted territory," explained HHHN CEO Tucker Slingerland, MD. "Thanks to the Charles R. Wood Foundation's support, mobile health capabilities will bring health care accessibility to a whole new level."

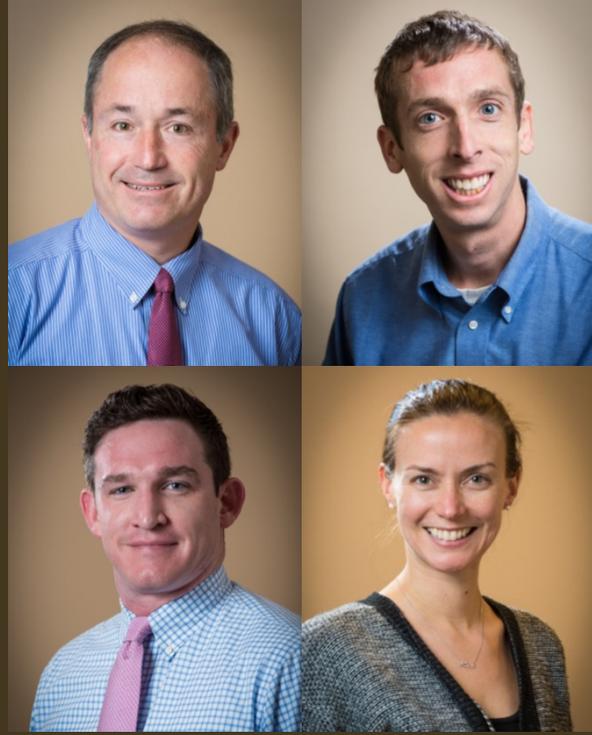
Hudson Headwaters Announces Clinical Leadership Changes

[Hudson Headwaters Health Network](#) last week announced changes to its clinical management team.

Dr. John Sawyer, who has served as chief medical officer at HHHN for more than 17 years, will transition his responsibilities to Dr. William Borgos (top left) by the spring of 2020.

To support the chief medical officer change and the growth of the organization, Drs. Thomas Portuese (top right) and Suzanne Bergin (bottom right) will become the network's first associate chief medical officers.

In another move, Kevin Dougrey (bottom left) has been appointed chief of medical staff operations.



Old Ogdensburg School to House Homeless

New York State will spend \$4.5 million to renovate a former Ogdensburg school to help combat homelessness. The money is going to [Step-By-Step, Inc.](#) and will put 20 apartments in the former Lincoln Elementary School building on Knox Street. This will include 18 studio apartments for homeless individuals and two apartments for homeless couples. Support services will include care management, self-help groups, health and wellness classes, and benefit advisement. Step-By-Step, a consumer-run, non-profit organization that provides services, support and care to persons discovering and recovering from mental illness in St. Lawrence County, has used the building since 2017.



Potsdam to Receive \$10 Million for Downtown Revitalization



The [Village of Potsdam](#) will receive \$10 million in state funding as the North Country winner of the fourth round of the [New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative \(DRI\)](#). The award will help Potsdam revitalize its downtown neighborhoods and generate new opportunities for long-term growth. According to a news release, DRI funding will leverage downtown Potsdam's walkability and existing assets, such as its

historic buildings, businesses, and cultural spaces, to support transformative projects that will encourage new investments, community development, and economic growth. DRI funding was previously awarded in the North Country to Plattsburgh, Watertown,

[Read the full news release.](#)

Were You Spotted at Our Conferences?

If you attended the 2019 AHI Leadership Summit in September, or the 5th Annual North Country Telehealth Conference earlier this month, visit our website to see if we spotted you in the crowd. We'd like to extend a big thank you to everyone who attended and supported the two events!

[Visit the Summit web page.](#)

[Visit the Telehealth web page.](#)

Training Sessions, Meetings, and Events

Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-5™) : New York State



DC:0-5™ Training Being Held in Albany, December 5-6

As part of the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative, the New York Center for Child Development and the New York State Office of Mental Health in collaboration with CTAC, will be holding a training on the ZERO TO THREE DC:0-5™ system, *Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood*, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 5, and 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 6, at Albany Capital Center.

DC:0-5™ is a research and clinically-informed diagnostic system that provides a comprehensive guide to the clinical disorders found in young children. This comprehensive training program is specifically designed for participants who are directly involved in the developmental and mental health evaluation and diagnosis of children birth to five years of age.

[Click here to register.](#)

Operationalizing the Expansion of Telemedicine Services Webinar, December 17

The webinar, *Operationalizing the Expansion of Telemedicine Services in a Complex Reimbursement and Regulatory Environment*, is being held 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 17. Presenter Mary Lowry, Administrative Director, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Connected Care and Center for TeleHealth, will review the current state of

telemedicine reimbursement, challenges and opportunities with new codes, leveraging EMR, scheduling, billing systems, and overcoming perceived operational barriers to engage physicians, providers, and clinical support staff.

[Click here to register.](#)

Share Your Updates

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

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