



# a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

December 12, 2019

## News Headlines

### NYS DOH Submits Formal Request to Continue Groundbreaking Medicaid Waiver Program

The [New York State Department of Health](#) on November 27 submitted an 1115 Medicaid waiver amendment request to the [Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services \(CMS\)](#) to establish a framework for ongoing efforts to drive value. The formal request seeks both a one-year extension of the current waiver program, and a subsequent three-year renewal to allow the state to build upon the transformation started in the current waiver period and continue on the road to value-based care.

The request, which seeks both unused funding from the original waiver to continue supporting the current program and additional federal funding to support a new health care transformation framework, totals \$8 billion over a four-year period. The present waiver expires on March 31, 2020.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

### Opioid Response Planning Program Completes Strategic Plan

The HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Planning Program (HRSA RCORP) has completed its *Regional Blueprint for Action* strategic plan. The program, whose mission was to bring together an eight-county consortium of partners to support planning and



capacity-building goals and objectives to support treatment for and the prevention of substance use disorders in rural counties at the highest risk, sunsetted on October 31.

Eight regional opioid crisis-related needs were prioritized for inclusion in the plan:

- Addressing harm reduction in prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- Creating awareness of substance-use disorders through community engagement.

- Enhancing primary prevention strategies and curriculum.
- Reducing stigma related to substance-use disorders.
- Creating healthy communities by addressing social determinants of health.
- Becoming a trauma-engaged region.
- Enabling substance-use disorder treatment innovation.
- Addressing workforce development gaps for providers.

"Our goal was to develop workable and effective collaborative strategies to curb opioid use and advance wellness," said Rebecca Evansky, HRSA RCORP Project Manager, AHI, "We'd like to thank our partners for helping to develop a blueprint we believe will provide a strong foundation to accomplish that goal."

The consortium, led by AHI, consisted of the [Council for Prevention](#), [Essex County Health Department](#), [HFM Prevention Council](#), [Seaway Valley Prevention Council](#), [St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment & Recovery Centers](#), and the [United Way of the Adirondack Region](#).

[Click here to learn more and read the strategic plan.](#)

## Partner Success Stories

### Transportation Programs Provide Rides to Good Health



Each year, 3.6 million Americans do not obtain medical care due to transportation challenges. These issues include lack of vehicle access, long distances and lengthy times to reach needed services, and transportation costs. According to a report, *Pathways to Progress*, published by the [Adirondack Gateway Council](#), transportation challenges are exacerbated in the North Country because of our expansive and mountainous geography and low population density. Add to the mix that transportation costs are typically the second largest budget item for most families and 8.5 percent of households in the region lack a vehicle, and the problem becomes even more acute.

Transportation can also be a vehicle for wellness and thanks to an influx of innovation funding from the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, AHI Performing Provider System partners are making great progress tackling the challenges. Five such programs are making a significant difference in the region.

[Read the full article.](#)

## Other News

### Open Door Mission Unveils Food Pantry

A new food pantry unveiled last week is just one of a growing

number of services the [Open Door Mission](#) in Glens Falls is offering to people in need. One-hundred cases of food and a \$30,000 donation from Hannaford made the pantry a reality.

The organization, which continues to renovate the 40,000-square-foot building it purchased a few years ago, already has a homeless shelter, Code Blue shelter, dayroom, and soup kitchen. Future plans call for a shelter for 50, a kitchen, a medical clinic, and a barber shop. "The goal is to impact peoples' lives who are struggling in poverty and homelessness," said Kim Cook, Open Door Mission President and CEO.



[Watch the full WNYT report.](#)

## Construction Begins on 40-Unit Affordable Housing Complex in Plattsburgh

A new affordable housing complex is under construction on the former Air Force Base in Plattsburgh. The 40-unit complex, Atlas Heights, will include three apartment buildings, a community building, and a tenant storage area. It will also include a playground and office space for support services. Fourteen units will be dedicated for domestic violence survivors, while nine others will be set aside for individuals with physical and/or developmental disabilities.



The project's development team includes Plattsburgh Community Housing, Inc., a not-for-profit affiliate of the [Plattsburgh Housing Authority](#), and [3d Development Group LLC](#). Construction on the complex is expected to be completed by mid-2021.

[Read the full Press-Republican article.](#)

## KPH Healthcare Services to Provide On-Site Pharmacy Care at Citizen Advocates



[KPH Healthcare Services, Inc.](#) has teamed with [Citizen Advocates](#) to provide on-site pharmacy care for individuals receiving integrated behavioral health services at its clinic in Malone.

KPH Healthcare Services, Inc. recently announced the addition of Kinect™, a

transformational on-site pharmacy option for community health centers. This service is designed to enhance convenience and privacy for those receiving mental health and addiction services in a safe and secure setting. The initiative will offer patients access to private, personalized, and coordinated care, where pharmacists will work directly with providers and case managers at Citizen Advocates to optimize the delivery and utilization of medications.

## MILC Awarded Funding for Homelessness Prevention

[Maximizing Independent Living Choices \(MILC\)](#) in Massena has been awarded \$400,000 per year by the [New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance](#) for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services in St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Essex counties.



The *Solutions to End Homelessness Program (STEHP)* will allow MILC to provide financial assistance to individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless, or those experiencing homelessness, including rental arrears payments and security deposits/first month's rent payments. According to Courtnie Toms, Deputy Director, MILC, funds will also be used for supportive services including care management, housing search and location, housing inspections, and advocacy, among others.

MILC, one of 67 agencies to receive funding, is presently accepting applications for financial help in St. Lawrence County, and expects to begin serving Franklin and Essex counties by early 2020. The program will run through September 2024.

## *Training Sessions, Meetings, and Events*

### 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, and billing systems, and overcoming perceived operational barriers to engage physicians, providers, and clinical support staff.

[Click here to register.](#)

### Leroy Outpatient Center Open House, Dec. 18

[St. Lawrence Health System](#) is holding an open house reception for its new [Leroy Outpatient Center](#). The event is being held 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 18, at

Canton-Potsdam Hospital's main campus in Potsdam. RSVPs are not required. Light refreshments and guided tours will be available. For more information, contact Deborah Chase-Lauther at [dchaselauther@cphospital.org](mailto:dchaselauther@cphospital.org), or 315.261.5413.



## ***LGBTQ+ Training Series***

# **Navigating LGBTQ+ Health for the Health Care Provider**

Provided By:



## ***LGBTQ+ Dinner and Learn Provider Training***

**Tuesday, Jan. 14, 5–8 p.m., Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls**

*or*

**Monday, Feb. 3, 5–8 p.m., Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake**

***Target audience: Clinicians, All-level Providers and Practice Managers, PCMH Certified Content Experts***

Join trainers Erica Bostick, MD, University of Rochester Medical Center, and Casey Belrose, Planned Parenthood of the North Country NY, Inc., as they teach participants how to navigate health care challenges the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and plus communities encounter on a regular basis in a clinical setting. This event will spotlight social stigmas, health and development challenges of LGBTQ+ youth, gender identity, and medical treatment options for transgender youth and adults.

### ***Training objectives:***

- Recognize the value of collecting SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) data in the medical office setting.
- Describe affirming practices in the sexual and medical health history assessment for LGBTQ+ youth/adults.
- Discuss gender-affirming medical treatment options for transgender youth/adults.
- Gain increased knowledge about the term LGBTQIA+, and its component parts.
- Gain increased knowledge around the concept of sexual identity, and its various facets, including sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex assigned at birth.
- Discuss various ways to implement this increased knowledge and understanding in your practice, both in relationship to patients and clients, but also coworkers and staff.

RSVP required. Contact Melissa Davey at [mdavey@ahihealth.org](mailto:mdavey@ahihealth.org) with any questions.

Register for January's session.

Register for February's session.

## **LGBTQ+ Training Series**

### **Partner Forum: A Workshop in Advancing LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness**

Provided By:



## ***LGBTQ+ Partner Forum***

**Wednesday, January 15, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Northwest Conference Center, SUNY Adirondack,  
Queensbury**

Join presenters Erica Bostick, MD, Casey Belrose, and Bryan Flowers as they teach participants how to support population health in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and plus communities. This event will spotlight social stigmas, health and development challenges, and gender identity. The day will conclude with a panel of regional experts taking questions and sharing their successes and challenges.

#### ***Presenters and panelists include:***

- Casey Belrose, Planned Parenthood of the North Country NY, Inc.
- Erica Bostick, MD, University of Rochester Medical Center
- Bryan Flowers, Oakwise Counseling
- Rachel Marcey, Planned Parenthood Mohawk Hudson, Inc.
- Celeste Steele, Glens Falls Hospital

RSVP required. Contact Melissa Davey at [mdavey@ahihealth.org](mailto:mdavey@ahihealth.org) with any questions.

**Register for the session.**

Save the Date

**Volume to Value:**  
20/20 Vision Towards Population Health

Thursday, March 26, 2020

The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, NY

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Dorcey L. Applyrs, DrPH, MPH, Vice President, Community Health Initiatives,  
The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region



# 2020 | MASH Camp

Medical Academy of Science & Health

At MASH Camp, you will spend time learning about health care careers! This year's 3-day camp will focus on emergency response, hospital care and post-acute care.

Students entering 9th –12th are invited to:

Gain hands-on experience in a number of healthcare careers

Explore the educational paths, skills, and job duties required for a number of career options

Meet professionals, develop new relationships, and explore job shadowing and volunteer opportunities



#### PROGRAM DETAILS

**WHEN:** July 13<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**WHERE:** Glens Falls/Saratoga Area  
Site - TO BE DETERMINED

#### DEADLINE TO APPLY

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

A program of:



Questions? Contact Adrienne Cross at:  
[across@hmahec.org](mailto:across@hmahec.org) or 518-480-2432

## 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](mailto:communications@ahihealth.org) to be considered for inclusion in *AHI Informer*.

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