



a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

May 14, 2020

News Headlines

ADK Wellness Connections Joins Unite New York Network



ADK WELLNESS
CONNECTIONS

ADK Wellness Connections, a free referral network sponsored by AHI that helps connect individuals to a wide range of area resources to improve health and well-being, will now be part of the Unite New York network.

ADK Wellness Connections presently covers a nine-county region (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington) and is connected in the Unite Us software platform to the Healthy Together network, led by the Alliance for Better Health, which serves a six-county region. The network will also be expanding to cover an additional six-county region, led by the Central New York Care Collaborative (CNYCares).

This expansion means network providers will now have access to more resources covering a larger geographic footprint. Unite Us has added several new service types to the network as well, including family support home visiting programs, developmental delay and disability support, homeless drop-in services, and conflict resolution and mediation services.

For more information, contact Victoria Knierim at vknierim@ahihealth.org, or Michaela Ferrari at michaela@uniteus.com.

Click here to visit the ADK Wellness Connections website.

Partner Success Story

BHSN, St. Joseph's Awarded CCBHC Expansion Grants

Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN) and St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment & Recovery Centers have each been awarded 2020 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Expansion Grants through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Grant implementation at BHSN will provide comprehensive, 24/7/365 access to community-based mental health and substance use disorder services, treatment of co-occurring disorders, and physical health care in a single location regardless of one's ability to pay.



"We are proud of what we have accomplished over the past few years in regard to building an integrated model of care under the DSRIP program. This new CCBHC funding will allow us to build upon that work and expand the services and care we provide to the community," said Mark Lukens, President & CEO of BHSN. "This is an exciting program."



Funding for St. Joseph's will allow for an expansion of mental health and substance use treatment services in the North Country through increased care coordination, collaboration, access, and crisis care.

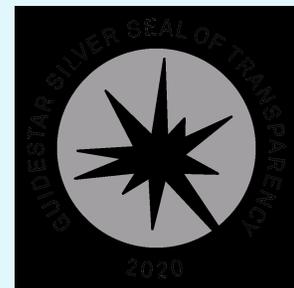
"We are thrilled to receive this critical funding alongside one of our regional partners, Behavioral Health Services North," said Robert Ross, St. Joseph's CEO. The two agencies join Citizen Advocates, which has been a CCBHC since 2017, to make the North Country a region with one of the highest per capita providers of CCBHC services in the state. "We are excited to embark on this journey together to ensure that the full spectrum of services is readily accessible all over our region," said Ross.

CCBHCs provide a comprehensive collection of services that create access, stabilize people in crisis, and provide needed treatment and recovery support services for those with the most serious and complex mental and substance use disorders.

Family Counseling Center Earns GuideStar Silver Seal of Transparency

The Family Counseling Center of Fulton County has earned a 2020 GuideStar Silver Seal of Transparency. The recognition is bestowed on nonprofit organizations that show a commitment to financial transparency by providing regularly-updated key agency profile information.

"With this recognition, our community can see our commitment to financial accountability," said Michael Countryman, the organization's Executive Director.



[Click here to view The Family Counseling Center's GuideStar profile.](#)

Other News

St. Lawrence County ADK Wellness Connections Coordination Center Featured in Radio Interview

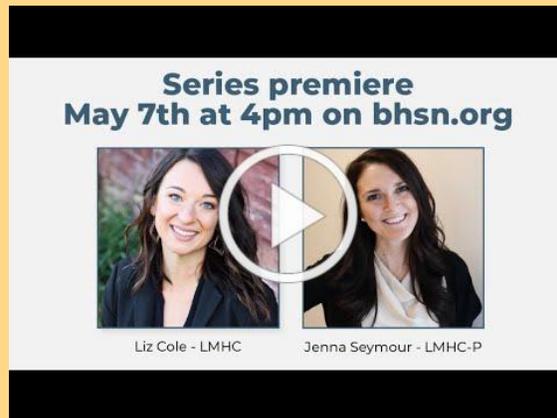
Jerome James of the St. Lawrence County Adirondack Wellness Connections

Coordination Center was recently featured in a radio interview on station WLFK 95.3 The Wolf, to discuss the resources offered by [ADK Wellness Connections](#), a free centralized, coordinated online resource and referral network sponsored by Adirondack Health Institute. The network, powered by the [Unite Us](#) platform, connects individuals to a wide range of resources to improve individuals' health and well-being. It serves a number of Adirondack-region counties, including St. Lawrence, administered by the [St. Lawrence County Health Initiative \(SLCHI\)](#).

[Click here to learn more and listen to the radio interview.](#)

BHSN Airs First Episode of New Livestream Video Series

[Behavioral Health Services North \(BHSN\)](#) debuted a new livestream video series last week. The inaugural episode of *BHSN Live*, "Life Unscripted," featured the agency's licensed clinical professionals discussing parenthood and working from home during these chaotic times. Future episodes will feature staff members discussing a range of topics related to life, health, and wellness. Click the link to the right to watch the first episode.



FCC Awards COVID-19 Telehealth Funding to BHSN



The [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\)](#) recently approved an additional 33 funding applications for the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, including [Behavioral Health Services North \(BHSN\)](#) in Plattsburgh. Health care providers in both urban and rural areas of the country will use this funding to provide telehealth services during the coronavirus pandemic. To date, the FCC's COVID-19 Telehealth Program, which was authorized by the CARES Act, has funded 82 health care providers in 30 states.

BHSN was awarded funding for connected devices, monitors, and software licenses to provide therapy, medication management, health monitoring and rehabilitation services via remote patient monitoring and telehealth to patients at risk for COVID-19.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Training Sessions, Meetings, and Events

ENHANCING THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE WEBINAR LEARNING SERIES



The Enhancing the Patient Experience Webinar Learning Series will provide participants with frameworks for the practical application of strategies to address social needs, promote cultural competency and health literacy, and improve patient engagement and satisfaction in clinical practice settings. Each webinar will take place at 12pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month, beginning in February 2020. **Please note rescheduled dates below.**

Is Your Practice Health Literate?

Thursday, February 6, 2020, 12pm-12:30pm

Best Practices for Social Needs Screening and Linkage

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 12pm-12:30pm

Low Health Literacy Red Flags and Interventions

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 12pm-12:30pm

Leveraging Patient Feedback to Inform Solutions

New date: Thursday, May 21, 2020, 12pm-12:30pm

Improving Interpersonal Communications with Patients

New date: Thursday, June 4, 2020, 12pm-12:30pm

Reducing Unconscious Bias

New date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 12pm-1pm

Engaging Amish and Mennonite Patients

TBD: 12pm-1pm

For more information contact:

Brenda Stiles, bstiles@cvph.org, or

Victoria Knierim, vknierim@ahihealth.org.

Please note webinars are now being held via Microsoft Teams.

(Link, phone numbers, and conference ID will be the same for all meetings).

+1 802-847-6644 United States, Burlington (Toll)

(866) 695-7853 United States (Toll-free)

Conference ID: 746 361 068#

Presented by:



Click here to download Microsoft Teams and join a meeting.

Planning for the Future of Telehealth Workshop, June 25

AHI and the [Center for Technology in Government at the University at Albany](#), are hosting *Planning for the Future of Telehealth: A Strategic Planning Workshop* 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 25, at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid. The workshop will bring together collaborative partners to develop a strategic plan for the future implementation of telehealth in the North Country region. An AHI Telehealth Listening Tour report, *The State of Telehealth in the North Country*, compiled by AHI with funding support from the [Charles R. Wood Foundation](#), will shape the workshop discussion. Stakeholders across the region are encouraged to review the report and then attend the workshop in support of prioritizing needs and actions that address barriers to telehealth



adoption, implementation, and expansion.

Contact Nancy DelMastro at ndelmastro@ahihealth.org, or Katy Cook at kcook@ahihealth.org with any workshop, report, or application questions.

[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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