



2021 North Country Leadership Summit

Emerging from a Year of Change: An Opportunity to Rebuild and Reimagine



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Thank you to our Award Sponsor!



Gallagher

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2021 Rural Health Champions

Ceremony Moderated By:

Sara Deukmejian, AHI

Adirondack Rural Health Network Manager



Congratulations to our 2021 Rural Health Champions!



Brenda Stiles
Adirondacks ACO



Barry Brogan
North Country Behavioral
Healthcare Network



Linda Beers
Essex County
Health Department



Terri Morse
Essex County
Mental Health



Shaun Gilliland
Essex County
Board of Supervisors



Carrie Reardon
Adirondack Health

2021 Transformation Rural Health Champion

Brenda Stiles, Director of Clinical Quality Improvement and
Practice Transformation

Adirondacks ACO

Excerpt from nomination:

“Brenda Stiles has been a leader in the North Country - driving primary care transformation and serving as a change agent for clinical quality improvement. In the past year, she has gone above and beyond when the University of Vermont Medical Center experienced a cyberattack in late October 2020. Brenda visited practices and got them setup to access Hixny's provider portal so clinicians would have the information they needed. Without this, care that patients needed might have been delayed. Brenda has also coached practices on strategies to improve performance on clinical quality measures, including controlling hypertension, blood sugar control for diabetics and depression screening and follow up. Through this work she has collaborated with Hixny to provide tools and resources to support practices as they work to meet recommended standards of care for their patients.”

Nominated By: RuthAnn Craven, Hixny

2021 Community Collaboration Rural Health Champion



Barry Brogan North Country Behavioral Health Care Network

Excerpt from nomination:

"Barry has been a leader in the field of behavioral health since before behavioral health was recognized by the medical community. He has strong skills as a collaborator and facilitator, helping Network members find common ground and shared strategic direction. A strong advocate, Barry has been a leader for advocacy in both Albany and Washington. He understands how government policies are developed and helps both NCBHN and NYSARH members educate lawmakers more effectively. Barry is a staunch supporter of rural communities, people and lifestyles. He understands that rural is not small urban, but rather has its own culture and values, which Barry shares. As Barry retires from NCBHN I think it is appropriate to recognize him for 'making a lasting contribution to the rural health care system'. I can think of few others who have done more."

Nominated By: Sara Bollinger, New York State Association for Rural Health

2021 Leadership Rural Health Champion



Linda Beers, Public Health Director
Essex County Health Department

Excerpt from nomination:

“Linda Beers guided Essex County through the devastating COVID-19 crisis with minimal impact to county residents. Her leadership included the establishment of an effective contact tracing operation in record time. Linda's unrelenting positive attitude and infectious smile inspired many to persevere through the darkest days of COVID-19. Linda has been the driving force behind the Essex County Heroin Opioid Coalition and has worked tirelessly to deal with the opioid epidemic and her support of a harm reduction approach has helped others see the wisdom of harm reduction as a way forward.”

Nominated by: Douglas C. Meyer, Mental Health Association in Essex County, Inc.

2021 Behavioral Health Rural Health Champion



Terri Morse, Director of Community Services
Essex County Mental Health

Excerpt from nomination:

“Terri is one of the hardest working people that I have ever worked with. Her dedication to the people of Essex County is evident in every decision she makes. She is guided by a vision focused of healing generational trauma. In this vein, she has created BRIEF, Building Resilience in Essex Families, a coalition which brings community provided of all kinds together to improve collaborative efforts to support families.”

Nominated by: Dava Clement, Essex County Mental Health

2021 Community Empowerment Rural Health Champion



Shaun Gilliland, Town Supervisor
Essex County Board of Supervisors

Excerpt from nomination:

"Chairman Gilliland goes above and beyond to assure that the needs of Essex County citizens are met. He advocates for the entire North Country region at the State and local level. He has been integral in moving public health concerns forward and facilitating solutions. During the pandemic, he worked with county government officials and our health department to identify champions in each township to provide grocery/food options, having each local store sympathetic to the needs of others and providing individualized strategies for addressing the food deserts that exist throughout our vast region. He fully supported the Essex County Health Department's COVID-19 response activities, encouraging the Essex County Board of Supervisors to embrace their dual role as the Essex County Board of Health, leading by example. As a farmer himself, he uniquely understands the struggle of our rural workforce and collaborates with community-based organizations to address these concerns and advocates at the state level for reform."

Nominated by: Linda Beers, Essex County Health Department

2021 Community Impact Rural Health Champion

Carrie Reardon, AVP of Patient Care Services
Adirondack Health

Excerpt from nomination:

"Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic more than a year ago, Carrie has been central to Adirondack Health's ongoing clinical response. Thanks in no small part to Carrie's efforts, Adirondack Health vaccinated more than 3,000 North Country residents. Carrie was the driving force behind the creation of one of the region's first COVID-19 clinics and it was Carrie who personally called each COVID-positive patient. She served as a resource and communicator of all things COVID-related. She did all these things - and countless others - with enthusiasm, professionalism, and a razor-sharp wit. Adirondack Health, and the communities we serve, are lucky to have her here."

Nominated by: Matt Scollin, Adirondack Health



2021 Telehealth Innovators

Ceremony Moderated By:
Nancy DelMastro, AHI
Telehealth Project Manager



Thank you to our Award Sponsor!



Westelcom[®] Company

Congratulations to our 2021 Telehealth Innovators!



Leyden Johnson
Centers Health Care



The Family Counseling Center Warm-Line Team
Jamie Spraker, Kim Smith, Kathy Calabrese, and Ron Weaver



Ann Marie Hatch
Glens Falls Hospital



2021 Telehealth Innovator

Leyden Johnson, Regional Director of Social Work
Centers Health Care

Excerpt from nomination:

“Leyden Johnson’s hard work and long hours to implement a Telehealth program for the nursing residents and families in the Adirondacks became one of the main offerings at the Centers Health Care facilities. If it wasn’t for Leyden Johnson’s passion for the implementation of the TeleHealth programs at all of the Adirondack facilities, it would have been a missed opportunity for the families and their loved ones”

Nominated by: Jeff Jacomowitz, Centers Health Care

2021 Telehealth Innovator



The Warm-Line Team

Jamie Spraker, Kim Smith, Kathy Calabrese, and Ron Weaver
The Family Counseling Center of Fulton County

Excerpt from nomination:

“The work our Warm-Line team did during the pandemic is astounding. The Warm-Line had a low start-up cost and utilized family-focused staff at a time when families and individuals needed help most. We are proud of the team's dedication, skill, and empathy for those who called looking for a little help during a time of great uncertainty”

Nominated by: Peter Lawrence, The Family Counseling Center

2021 Telehealth Innovator

Ann Marie Hatch, Sr. Director Physician Practices
Glens Falls Hospital



Excerpt from nomination:

"Behavioral and physical care is historically siloed, but Ann Marie saw the opportunity in how it would be a valued resource for PCPs and improve patient outcomes. She championed aptihealth's launch across stakeholders, including hospital administration, clinical administration, and PCP groups. Her visionary leadership and willingness to embrace new approaches to care has transformed how GFH serves the behavioral needs of their patients. Since implementation in August 2020, over 500 patients have been referred to aptihealth. Those patients are able to access care within days and have experienced significant reduction in symptom severity within the first 60 days of treatment"

Nominated by: Alex Marsal, AptiHealth

Celebrating our Regional Rural Health Champions

November 18, 2021

#powerofrural

National Rural
Health Day
Celebrating the Power of Rural



TM

IT'S NOT JUST A DAY, IT'S A MOVEMENT.

- ❖ To celebrate our regional champions and to spotlight National Rural Health Day in November, all of the Rural Health Networks of Northern New York will create an advertisement, which will be displayed on social media outlets, including Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- ❖ The congratulatory ad will also be featured on the Adirondack Rural Health Network webpage, at ahihealth.org/arhn.
- ❖ A news release will be sent out to the local news outlets announcing the 2021 Rural Health Champions in November.



Thank you for joining us today!
Congratulations again to the
2021 Rural Health Champions and
Telehealth Innovators!

