



January 24, 2022

News Headlines

A letter from the ADK Wellness Connections team

Dear Colleague:

Adirondack Health Institute (AHI) wishes you a Happy New Year! As you know, AHI sponsors [ADK Wellness Connections](#), a free referral network powered by [Unite Us](#), the platform that connects individuals to a wide range of health and social resources in their communities. AHI would like to share some exciting news regarding recent accomplishments within the ADK Wellness Connections program.

AHI has been awarded funding through the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to continue ADK Wellness Connections' programmatic work through the Connected Health grant in 2022. This grant supports the partnership between AHI and the [Alliance for Better Health](#) who oversee the [Healthy Together](#) referral network, and with ADK Wellness Connections, are part of the larger Unite NY Network.

AHI is pleased to share that Victoria Knierim has been promoted to Program Manager of the ADK Wellness Connections program. We are also pleased to announce that Rebecca Bigelow will assume the position of Program Specialist for ADK Wellness Connections. Victoria and Rebecca have been part of the AHI team since January of 2016 and March of 2018 respectively, in various roles, and most recently, supporting the work and growth of the ADK Wellness Connections program. Please join us in wishing Victoria and Rebecca continued success.

Lastly, as the ADK Wellness Connections network continues to grow, AHI is actively recruiting a Program Navigator to join the team to support program operations and network expansion.

With these changes, we thank our partners for continued support within the network and your ongoing efforts connecting individuals to vital resources to create healthier communities. We encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss your network use in greater detail.

Warm Regards,

The ADKWC Team

[Andrea Bonacci](#), AHI Director of Population Health Programs
[Victoria Knierim](#), ADK Wellness Connections Program Manager
[Rebecca Bigelow](#), ADK Wellness Connections Program Specialist

Citizens Advocates Adds Senior Directors to Leadership Team

MALONE, N.Y. – Citizen Advocates has reshaped its Leadership Team to include four Senior Director roles primarily responsible for service growth and financial

performance.

The transition was prompted by the confluence of COVID-19 and the emerging needs it has created for healthcare providers throughout the country. However, many of those needs are more acute in rural areas, like northern New York, largely due to the unique health challenges present in most communities coupled with limited access to basic care.

“Our services are either growing or changing to meet a wide range of unmet and underserved needs within the community,” said James Button, CEO of Citizen Advocates. “Some of this growth is in response to COVID, while other changes are the result of those we support needing new or different services.”

This added dimension of senior leadership will allow Citizen Advocates to better serve individuals and families and provide employees with greater management support as well as professional growth opportunities.

The new Senior Directors were hired from within the existing ranks of the Leadership Team.

To read more, click [here](#)!

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)

Did you know? The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program as part of the Implementation III Grant aims to expand prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorder and opioid use disorder.

AHI is pleased to collaborate with Champlain Valley Family Center, St. Joseph's Addiction Treatment and Recovery Centers, the Council for Prevention of Warren and Washington, and Hamilton Fulton Montgomery Prevention Council in these efforts. The RCORP Implementation Grant will serve Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, St. Lawrence, and rural areas of Warren and Washington counties.

To learn more about RCORP, visit <https://ahihealth.org/rcorp/> or contact Sabrina Herlick, Director of RCORP Implementation at sherlick@ahihealth.org.

A new publication is available from the Moreau Community Center.

Click [here](#) to view!

Upcoming Events

Join Us Today for the Telehealth Learning Collaborative – January 24, 2021

The North Country Telehealth Partnership will be hosting the first Telehealth Learning Collaborative of 2022 on January 24th from 2:00 – 3:00pm. The featured speaker will be Chris Gaur of Vital Care Services giving a presentation on Remote Physiological Monitoring.

It's not too late! To register, click [here](#).

Smoke-Free Movies Video Contest – Intro Meeting January 25

The tobacco industry uses tobacco imagery on screen to normalize and glamorize tobacco use.

Youth are three times more likely to try smoking after seeing it featured in a movie, which may lead to life-long addiction. If an R-rating was given to movies featuring tobacco products, more than one million lives could be saved!

Reality Check is challenging New York State youth ages 13–18 to participate in the ongoing **Smoke-Free Movies Video Contest** to help expose the tobacco industry's manipulative tactics within the entertainment industry. Smoking on the screen kills in real life, and it is time to speak up about it!

Videos should be 60 seconds long and must contain the following Key Facts and at least one Key Statement from the following:

Key Facts:

- Youth who are exposed to images of smoking in movies are more likely to smoke. (US Surgeon General)
- It is projected that on-screen smoking will kill two million U.S. children and teens alive today. (US Center for Disease Control)
- R-rating future movies with smoking would reduce the youth smoking rate in the United States by 18%. (US Center for Disease Control)

Key Statements:

- One little letter could save a million lives. Rate smoking R.
- Protect youth from on-screen exposure to tobacco.
- Smoking in movies kills in real life.

An introductory meeting will be held **January 25, 2022 at 7:00pm** for any youth interested in participating. Submissions are due March 9th with winners announced March 27, 2022. For complete contest rules and to submit entries, visit www.realitycheckofny.com.

For questions specific to the contest and introductory meeting information, please email mrudinger@ahihealth.org. To learn more about the Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks and Reality Check programs, click [here!](#)

NY MATTERS Information Session (Medication for Addiction Treatment & Electronic Referrals)

Join AHI on **February 7** from 3 – 4pm for a free webinar featuring Caleigh Loughran, to learn more about the electronic referral platform to connect patients to medications for opioid use disorder (MOUDs). The NY MATTERS electronic referral platform (hosted by the NYSDOH) efficiently refers patients with opioid use disorder from emergency departments, OB/GYN offices, correctional facilities, inpatient units, pre-hospital settings, etc. to community-based clinics.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/32kgNrS>. Any questions can be directed to Sabrina Herlick, Director, RCORP Implementation, at sherlick@ahihealth.org or 518.480.0111, ext. 336.

2022 Food Justice Summit

Join us for the 2022 Food Justice Summit, hosted by AHI in collaboration with the Adirondack Food System Network.

For more information or to register, visit <https://ahihealth.org/2022fjs>.



**FEBRUARY
23-24, 2022
8am-4pm
VIA ZOOM**

**2022
FOOD
JUSTICE
SUMMIT**

feed back: meeting in the middle

Register Now!

 Coordinated by AHI & The Adirondack Food System Network

TOPICS INCLUDE

- ECOSYSTEM CREDITS
- FARM VIABILITY
- INCREASING FOOD ACCESS
- CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SYSTEMS
- TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Registration:

FREE FOR FARMERS
\$20 PER INDIVIDUAL
\$10 FOR STUDENTS
A LIMITED NUMBER OF NON-FARMER
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Thanks to our Sponsors

Important Information

AHI Career Opportunities

AHI is hiring! AHI is seeking dedicated, motivated, and highly passionate individuals who share our drive and commitment to making a difference by improving the health of our community. We are hiring for the following positions: **Program Navigator, Regional Care Coordination Specialist (Children)**. AHI provides a friendly and challenging work environment and a comprehensive benefits package. For more information or to apply online, visit [AHI Careers](#).

EOE/M/F/V/D.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION – NENY CHAPTER is Hiring!

[Click here for the job description!](#)

Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance

AHI's **EASE (Enrollment Assistance Services and Education) program** assists individuals, families and small business owners enroll in health insurance coverage through the NY State of Health Marketplace. We serve eight counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.

We don't charge and we're not an insurance company. We help clients look at available insurance plans and find out if they're eligible for financial assistance.

Request an appointment online or call toll-free, 1.866.872.3740, to make an appointment with a certified enrollment specialist. We'll help to review health insurance choices via phone, for free. To learn more, click [here](#).

AHI also provides assistance with helping individuals and families resolve issues in [accessing substance use disorder and mental health services](#), as well as [care management services](#).

Other Information

The need for foster parents in our region is growing.

To learn more or to register for a virtual pre-certification class, visit <https://www.berkshirefarm.org/foster>.

NY Project Hope – Coping with COVID

As New York continues to grapple with new challenges due to COVID-19, individuals continue to seek emotional support to help them cope with transitions, stress, and anxiety.

NY Project Hope is available to provide emotional support for all NYS residents.

NY Project Hope has an emotional support helpline, educational materials, trusted referrals, and local provider agencies... all dedicated to helping you manage and cope with changes brought on by COVID-19.

NY Project Hope also provides free virtual presentations and printed materials (including posters) to share additional information about the services they offer. Click [here](#) to submit a request for materials.

2-1-1

ADIRONDACK REGION

Serving: Clinton, Essex & Franklin Counties

2-1-1 is a number to call for free and confidential community referral that connects callers with resources providing food, shelter, rent assistance, child care options and other types of community assistance. Trained referral specialists are multi-lingual and available to help individuals find the help they need.

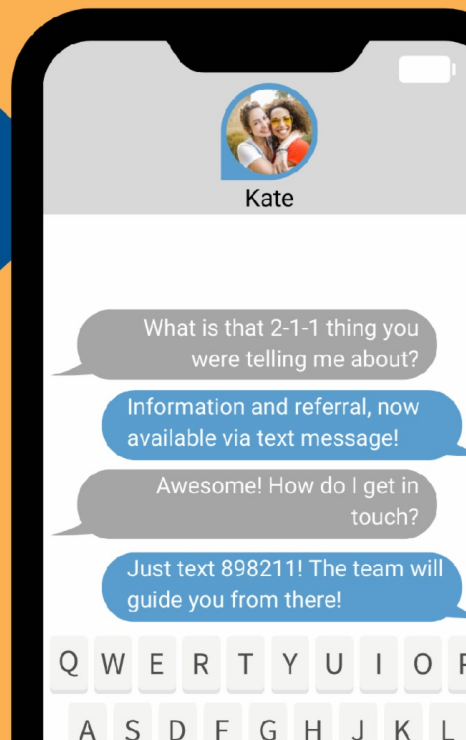
Now available via text!

To text, simply
send a message to:

898211

Trained specialists
are standing by!

Whatever the need, our **2-1-1**
Call Center has the
information and expertise to
make the right connections.



FREE TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

Available for families and individuals whose household income is \$57,000 or less per year in Warren, Washington and Northern Saratoga counties

Attached are the flyers and postcard handouts promoting the Free Volunteer Income Tax Service for the 2022 tax filing season.

The IRS certified Tax preparers will be hosting day, evening, and weekend hours throughout Washington County following the current health guidelines.

The postcard size is good to include in food baskets, backpacks, and to have on counters or desk where there is a traffic flow or appointments.

The full page flyer is larger for bulletin boards etc.

Feel free to include any these in your newsletters or other promotions over the next few months. We have learned from experience when they see something multiple times they will take notice.

Thank you for your continued support of VITA to the local communities.

COVID-19 Resources

For links to various COVID-19 resources for community partners, please visit [AHI's website](#).

Share Your Updates

Please note that AHI will now be publishing the AHInformer mid-month.

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

This edition and past issues of the newsletter are available at <https://ahihealth.org/ahi-news/ahinformer/>.

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STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

