

a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

February 22, 2022

News Headlines



**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



Food Justice Summit to be held February 23 and 24, 2022

Adirondack Health Institute, in collaboration with the Adirondack Food System Network, will be holding the 5th Annual **Food Justice Summit** virtually on February 23 and 24, 2022.

Featuring a keynote address by **Dr. Anastasia Volkova**, CEO and Co-Founder of Regrow, the Food Justice Summit will highlight the work of regional organizations in promoting emerging food access programs, exploring new technologies and models for food distribution and consumption, and farm viability.

There's still time to register! Visit <https://ahihealth.org/2022fjs/> for the agenda and registration information.

AHI Announces New Board Member, Paul Scimeca

Adirondack Health Institute announces the appointment of **Paul Scimeca, Int. President/Chief Executive Officer at Glens Falls Hospital**, to its Board of Directors. Mr. Scimeca will serve as the Member Representative from Glens Falls Hospital as Dianne Shugrue transitions into retirement.

Mr. Scimeca was appointed to the role of Int. President/Chief Executive Officer in January 2022 after most recently serving as the SVP/Chief Operating Officer. In addition to his role at Glens Falls Hospital, Mr. Scimeca is an adjunct professor at Clarkson University Graduate School of Business. He is a member of the Medical Group Management Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives. Scimeca holds a master's degree in health services administration from Sage Graduate College and a bachelor's degree in planning from New York University.

A new edition of the **Moreau Community Center** newsletter is available.
Click [here](#) to view the publication.

Glens Falls Hospital Expands Visitation

Effective Wednesday, February 16, Glens Falls Hospital is expanding visitation as follows:

- **One unique visitor per patient, per day, may visit an inpatient from 10am – 1pm, and again from 5pm – 8pm, seven days per week.**
- Each inpatient may have one unique visitor per day. Visitors may not leave and return, except between the close of the first visitation period and the beginning of the second, nor can the assigned unique visitor be replaced by another visitor.
- Visitors must be age 18 and older.
- Visitors will enter only through the West Entrance where they will be greeted and screened by security.
- Visitors must wear a mask at all times and should bring their own personal mask.
- Visitors will be asked to use hand sanitizer at the screening station and practice good hand hygiene for the duration of their visit.
- There is no eating or drinking in patient rooms at this time.
- Please understand that visitation is not allowed for COVID-19 positive infectious patients.

For more information and to review exceptions, click [here](#).

Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks

Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks (CASA) and statewide tobacco control partners met with New York State Senator Daniel G. Stec on January 27 to provide education regarding existing issues related to tobacco marketing and disparities in our local communities, while highlighting successful efforts to address them.

Washington County currently has the highest adult smoking rate in New York State at 25.3% compared to the State average of 12.8%. In 2021, CASA supported Washington County in the implementation of a smoke-free policy for all its grounds. CASA's work will continue in Washington County through key informant interviews with community leaders to gain an understanding of current health and social challenges in Washington County communities while identifying opportunities for positive change.

CASA works in Warren, Washington, and Saratoga counties to reduce the impact of tobacco retail environment on youth and adults, establish a tobacco-free community norm through tobacco-free outdoor and tobacco-free housing policies, and decrease tobacco imagery in youth-related movies and in the tobacco industry presence on social media.

For more information on CASA, click [here](#)!

Citizens Advocates Welcomes Skilled Caregivers to Medical Staff Team

Citizen Advocates has recently added two Advanced Practice Providers to join its highly skilled and caring team of mental health and addiction treatment professionals.

Both Katrina Galasik and John Gomez are board certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners, each with several years of experience in their respective field.

“One of our top goals is to be known as a provider of exceptional, high-quality clinical services,” said Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joshua Frank. “We are fortunate to have attracted a team of talented professionals who can provide an additional layer of care when it comes to the delivery of prevention, treatment and recovery services for individuals living with a mental health or addiction diagnosis.”

In addition to evaluating and providing diagnosis as part of a treatment plan, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners also provide ongoing medication management for patients recovering from substance use disorders. Besides coordinating and collaborating with other members of the care team – including therapists, registered nurses, targeted case managers, and others – the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner works closely with and under the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer.

Ms. Galasik is the newest member of the care team, who has relocated from Rochester and will be providing treatment and services at Citizen Advocates’ Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center in Ogdensburg. Before becoming a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, she worked for several years as a Registered Nurse focusing on the professional treatment and care of individuals working at the Buffalo Psychiatric Center. Ms. Galasik has also earned valuable experience as Faculty for the medical assistant program at the Everest Institute, and as Instructor of Nursing for the registered nursing program at Genesee Community College.

Mr. Gomez joined the Medical Staff in late 2020, and he is part of the care team at Citizen Advocate’s integrated outpatient Behavioral Health Clinics in Malone and Saranac Lake. Much like his current role, his previous experience was conducting psychiatric evaluations and developing treatment plans for patients at the Recovery Resource Center of Orange County, New York, and Cornerstone Family Healthcare in Middletown, N.Y. Prior to that, he worked as a Registered Nurse for Rochester Regional Health in an Acute Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Unit/Emergency Department and at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester on the Medical/Surgical Unit.

In addition to Ms. Galasik and Mr. Gomez, the following certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners are part of the Medical Staff at Citizen Advocates: Patricia Cook, Malone clinic; Ruth Ann Williamson, Massena clinic; and Ashley LaValley, Malone clinic. There are also two Family Nurse Practitioners on the Medical Staff, Rita Curran at the Malone clinic, and Colleen Paquette at the Massena clinic. Dr. Jane Maxwell rounds out the care team as the Staff Psychiatrist for the outpatient clinic in Saranac Lake.

To learn more about the mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services provided by Citizen Advocates, visit www.CitizenAdvocates.net.

Important Information




every child deserves a loving family

URGENT NEED FOR FOSTER CARE IN THE ADIRONDACK REGION

Over the past 5 years, the number of
children in Foster Care in Clinton,
Essex, and Franklin Counties has
increased by 90%

Applications now being accepted for those who are:

- At least 21 years old,
- Married, single, or living with a partner,
- Have sufficient income to suit your own family's needs,
- Are in good health,
- Can make room in your home and heart for children in need 

Placement options are flexible in order to meet the needs and desires of those interested in becoming foster parents.
Respite care may also be a consideration.

Contact information:

Clinton County DSS: 518-565-3320

Essex County DSS: 518-873-3414

Franklin County DSS: 518-481-1812

2-1-1: Phone: 2-1-1, Text: 8-9-8-2-1-1



ADIRONDACK REGION
Serving: Clinton, Essex & Franklin Counties



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 position: **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.

Hudson Headwaters Mobile Health Now Serving SUNY Adirondack Campus

Hudson Headwaters Mobile Health is now delivering primary care services at SUNY Adirondack. The mobile health center will be on campus twice a month to serve students, faculty and staff.

The mobile health center is staffed by a family nurse practitioner, Christine Calistri, a registered nurse and a medical assistant. Hudson Headwaters Mobile Health Program Lead Kristin Waller, who also serves as the onsite medical assistant, recently attended SUNY Adirondack's winter student orientation day.

"We brought the unit onsite so students and other campus community members could tour through and get to know us," explained Waller. "The mobile team is thrilled to offer services to SUNY Adirondack and hope our flexible options, such as online appointment scheduling and same-day sick appointments, appeal to busy students and campus staff."

The mobile health center will kick off its SUNY Adirondack presence with a Moderna COVID-19 booster clinic for the campus community from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will be open for appointments until 4 p.m. February 10.

This is the first time medical services will be offered on the SUNY Adirondack campus, which does not have a student health center. Access to health care became a priority when the campus added a residence hall in 2013.

"SUNY Adirondack is excited by the opportunity to advance our relationship with Hudson Headwaters Health Network and bring affordable, top-notch health care to campus for our students and their dependents," said Kristine D. Duffy, Ed.D., president of SUNY Adirondack. "Hudson Headwaters' Mobile Health Center offers SUNY Adirondack students convenient, safe care to help our students make their health a priority."

SUNY Adirondack is the fourth site served by the mobile health center. Other locations include Salem, New York, Lake Luzerne, New York, and Whitehall, New York. Hours and locations vary by site; a full calendar with site locations and times is available at hahn.org/mobilehealth.

According to Hudson Headwaters CEO Dr. Tucker Slingerland, "The addition of SUNY Adirondack to the list of our mobile health program's service sites is another great example of the power of mobile to deliver care wherever it is needed most. We are thrilled to support one of our local community colleges and partners in this way."

Hudson Headwaters Mobile Health appointment types include primary care visits for adults and children, women's health services, chronic disease management and preventive health screenings. Same-day appointments for injury or illness may also be scheduled. Individuals must become a patient of Hudson Headwaters Health Network to make an appointment at the mobile health center. Community members may establish as a patient and/or make appointments by calling 518-623-0871 or by visiting hahn.org/mobilehealth.

The Hudson Headwaters Mobile Health Center is a highly customized, 40-foot RV-like vehicle converted into a primary care medical office. It offers two fully equipped examination rooms, a registration area, point-of-care testing areas, a lab draw station and bathroom. Take a virtual tour of the new mobile health center at hahn.org/mobilehealth.

The Hudson Headwaters Health Foundation is raising funds to support the mobile program's initial three-year pilot phase. Major project supporters include The Charles R. Wood Foundation, Stewart's/Dake Family, The Himoff Family and CDPHP.

About Hudson Headwaters Mobile Health

Mission: To drive access to affordable, high-quality primary care and select specialty services for medically underserved populations within the area.

Vision: To empower community health through an innovative, patient-centric mobile health care delivery model fueled by partnerships with local organizations.

Goals: Increase access to primary care services; Alleviate health disparities in vulnerable and rural populations; Reduce socioeconomic barriers to accessing health care.

Learn more at hahn.org/mobilehealth.

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

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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