



a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

April 21, 2022

News Headlines

We want to hear from you!

Are you a community member in the North Country?

The North Country Digital Inclusion Coalition, formed by Adirondack Health Institute and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization, would like to hear about your experience using telehealth services.

Please take the 5 minute survey by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCDIC> or by scanning the QR code below!



We want to hear from you!

Are you a health care provider in the North Country?

The North Country Digital Inclusion Coalition, formed by Adirondack Health Institute and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization, is looking for insights on access to telehealth and digital inclusion barriers in our communities.

Please take the 5 minute survey by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCDIC2> or by scanning the QR code below!



NY Project Hope Continues to Provide Emotional Support to Navigate the Uncertainty of COVID-19

NY Project Hope, a FEMA-funded program, provides emotional support for NYS residents in response to COVID-19. Services include an **emotional support helpline**, **online wellness groups**, **local crisis counseling**, **supportive resources**, **public education**, and more.

To learn more about NY Project Hope, click [here](#).

A new publication is available from **Family Service Association of Glens Falls, Inc.**

Click [here](#) to read!

CASA Celebrates Earth Day!

[Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks](#) (CASA) wishes you a Happy Earth Day!

Did you know cigarettes are the most littered item on earth? Worldwide, approximately 4.5 trillion cigarettes are littered each year. Cigarette butts are toxic, leaching chemicals such as arsenic and lead into the environment and are also a cause of pollution when carried as runoff to drains, rivers, beaches, and oceans.

A new threat to the environment is the littering of e-cigarettes. Both the batteries and e-cigarette devices contain hazardous substances such as lead and mercury. Incompletely used liquid cartridges and refills contain nicotine salts and heavy metals that can leach into soil and waterways or be ingested by wildlife. Many e-cigarette manufactures do not provide guidance to consumers on how to properly dispose of used devices or pod and cartridge products, further contributing to this problem.

Over 500 municipalities across New York State have already taken the initiative to protect their local environment by implementing a tobacco-free outdoors policy. CASA strives to assist business owners, organizational leaders, and municipalities in the development and establishment of tobacco-free outdoors policies which are vital

to the wellbeing of the environment.

This Earth Day, CASA challenges **YOU** to take action in your local community to help clean our public spaces of toxic waste. On your next walk or outing, count or photograph the tobacco litter that you see in your community, cleaning up if you are able. Share your findings with us via [social media](#) or email us at casa@ahihealth.org so we can mobilize our communities together to protect the Earth!

New publications are available from **Moreau Community Center**.

Click [here](#) for the April edition and [here](#) for the May edition!

Events

Family Resource Day and Opioid Overdose Prevention April 28, 2022

Chances are, you or someone you know has been touched by the opioid crisis. Join us on **April 28** from **1:00 - 4:00pm** at the **MHAB Life Skills Campus** in Plattsburgh to learn more and ask questions about opioid use, overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery. This event will also feature a Narcan training and participants will leave with a free Narcan kit, fentanyl test strips, and deterra packs.

Click [here](#) for more information. Note that registration is not required.

Questions can be directed to Sabrina Herlick, Director, RCORP Implementation at AHI at sherlick@ahihealth.org.

Taste of Malone Returns This Spring

Main fundraiser for Backpack Program is back with help of local restaurants

MALONE, N.Y. – Citizen Advocates is proud to announce the Taste of Malone Event is moving to Spring.

After last year's successful reimagining, the main fundraiser for Citizen Advocates' Backpack Program will once again be held at participating restaurants across the community. Each restaurant will donate 20 percent of revenue generated from dine-in and take-out orders made **on Thursday, April 28** to the Citizen Advocates Backpack Program.

Sponsored by Citizen Advocates' newly established Foundation, the main goal of the program is to eliminate childhood hunger in the North County. The Backpack Program provides eligible children in grades kindergarten through six with nutritious food on the weekend throughout the school year.

Participating restaurants are: Bokie's Drive-In, Donovan's Steak & Ale, The Elks Lodge, The Grille Room at Malone Golf Club, Hosler's Family Restaurant, Jessie's Supper Club, Jreck Subs, Mo's Pub & Grill, The Pines Tap & Table, Riverside Restaurant, Something Different Pizza & Deli, and SmokeHouse Pizzeria.

"After a year off, Taste of Malone came back with renewed purpose and energy in 2021," said James Button, CEO of Citizen Advocates. "We're thrilled to expand the scope of the fundraiser even further in 2022. More restaurants, more sponsors, more individuals working hand-in-hand to end childhood hunger."

The Backpack Program costs about \$70,000 annually to operate and provides roughly 500 local school-aged children with healthy meal choices on the weekend. All funds raised go directly to the program, which relies entirely on volunteer time for support. Each Tuesday, volunteers fill bags with food, which are then delivered to participating schools where staff members discreetly distribute the bags to participating children.

"Citizen Advocates is establishing a Foundation to support health, wellness, and belonging in the North Country," said Jennifer Bilow, the Foundation's Executive Director. "That mission is typified by the vital work of the Backpack Program, which would not be possible without the community rallying together behind Taste of Malone."

Several local individuals and businesses have also generously given to help with program costs, including this year's corporate sponsors, Adirondack for Kids and NBT Bank.

Individuals wishing to sponsor an individual child for a year are encouraged to make a \$125 donation to the Adopt-A-Kid Campaign. To learn more, contact Jennifer Bilow at (518) 651-5172.

Documentation, Coding, and Billing for SUD/OD via Medication Assisted Treatment: A Focus on Rural and Community Health May 11, 2022

JOIN US FOR A FREE TRAINING COURSE on clinical documentation, professional coding, and compliant medical billing for substance use disorder/opioid use disorder (SUD/OD) treatment services with a focus on medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

This educational session will focus on how participants of: Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), mental health care providers, and primary care organizations that provide SUD/OD screening, MAT services, and behavioral health services can ensure their financial sustainability and continued service provision by maximizing reimbursement for SUD/OD treatment and primary care and mental and behavioral health encounters.

Sign up via Eventbrite by May 3, 2022 [here](#).

Questions can be directed to Sabrina Herlick, Director, RCORP Implementation at AHI at sherlick@ahihealth.org.

This training is provided on behalf of Adirondack Health Institute through a partnership between JBS, International and ArchProCoding under HRSA's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), Grant No. U6BRH32364.

Community Resource Day

Saranac Lake CSD and SL Chamber of Commerce invites you and your agency to the first annual Community Resource Day!

Share your agency's work and practices with other agencies and lots of community members! This is also an opportunity to seek potential employees - youth to adult.

To sign up or for more information, please contact Erika Bezio at 518-897-1467 or via email at bezioeri@slcs.org.

Community Resource Day THURSDAY, MAY 12TH

2:00-5:00 PM
RIVERSIDE PARK
SARANAC LAKE

FIND
RESOURCES

Come see what
YOUR community can
do for YOU!

Job Fair!



Enjoy a FREE
slice of pizza
after!



Other Information

Career Opportunities at AHI

AHI is hiring! We are 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:

- **Data Support Specialist**
- **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 us at <https://ahihealth.org/who-we-are/careers/>.

EOE/M/F/V/D.

The **Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP)** has compiled a resource document with **substance use disorder (SUD)/opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment providers and resources** within and adjacent to the RCORP service area.

Click [here](#) for the document.

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.

COVID-19 Resources

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

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 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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