



a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

June 16, 2022

News Headlines

LGBTQIA+ Community Disproportionately Impacted by Tobacco

Every year in the month of June, the LGBTQIA+ community is celebrated and recognized. This month stands as a reflection point on the progress we have made as a nation and in our local communities in the fight for justice, inclusion, and equality. There continues to be more work to do as we strive for these goals.

We know that LGBTQIA+ individuals can experience disparities that stem from social stigma and discriminatory treatment. The LGBT community is disproportionately impacted by tobacco. Overall, lesbian, gay and bisexual* adults smoked cigarettes at rates significantly higher than straight adults and were nearly twice as likely to use e-cigarettes and little cigars.ⁱ Transgender youth between 14-17 reported recent use of more than one tobacco product at nearly three times the rate of cisgender youth.ⁱ

Clear the Air in the Southern Adirondacks (CASA) is an advancing tobacco-free communities partnership grant funded by the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Tobacco Control (BTC) and serves Warren, Washington, and Saratoga counties. CASA seeks to build healthier communities through tobacco-free living in the counties we serve.

CASA's goal is to reduce the impact of retail tobacco marketing on youth and adults, establish a tobacco-free community norm through tobacco-free outdoor air policies and tobacco-free housing policies, and decrease tobacco imagery in youth-related movies and in the tobacco industry presence on social media. The team continues to work to highlight tobacco disparities in our local communities and connect with individuals to mobilize their communities for change. Contact the CASA team at [facebook.com/CASASWW](https://www.facebook.com/CASASWW) or email casa@ahihealth.org to receive support in connecting with your community surrounding this issue.

To review the full report from Truth Initiative, [click here](#).

ⁱ <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/targeted-communities/tobacco-use-lgbt-communities>

*Terminology in the Truth Initiative document varies and is based on the studies cited. Truth Initiative recognizes that some of these terms are no longer preferred in the LGBT community.

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!



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/NCDIC2> or by scanning the QR code below!



A new publication is available from **Moreau Community Center**.
Click [here](#) to read!

Adirondack Health Institute is proud to support, celebrate, and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community year-round.

Visit <https://ahihealth.org/resources-for-supporting-lgbtq/> for a wealth of information on supporting the well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals, including events and support groups, personal resources, organizational resources, and training modules.

Events

SAVE THE DATE 2022 NORTH COUNTRY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**Optimizing Healthcare: Community
Collaboration and Workforce Resiliency**

September 19th – 23rd, 2022

**AHI and FDRHPO present a week long virtual symposium
with presentations on strategies to optimize telehealth and
population health**



Call for Presenters Forms for the 2022 North Country Leadership Summit are due by July 8!

Visit <https://ahihealth.org/2022-north-country-leadership-summit/> for information on submitting a proposal. Sponsorship information and nomination forms for the 2022 Rural Health Champions as well as the Telehealth Innovator Awards are also available!

The Conkling Center offers a variety of programs and events, from guided fitness classes and health and wellness programs, to hands-on projects and lectures.

To view and register for upcoming events, visit <https://www.theconklingcenter.org/events-and-programs>.



ADK WELLNESS CONNECTIONS

Network Partner Forum



Wednesday, June 29th 12:00-1:00pm

Please join us for our virtual Network Partner Forum. This webinar is open to all current partners and organizations interested in learning more about [ADK Wellness Connections](#). This will be a great opportunity to hear about network growth, updates from Unite Us, and organizational highlights and experiences.

Register Here!

New York State Food as Medicine Planning Kickoff

June 30, 2022

Join virtually for the largest NYS convening of Food as Medicine providers and stakeholders

We know Food as Medicine (FAM) interventions change lives. From veggie RX and food pharmacies to medically tailored meals and groceries, and more, we are coming together to develop a community informed FAM plan for NY that integrates medically tailored food and nutrition services into the state's Medicaid program, improving health and reducing healthcare

costs.

The Food as Medicine Workgroup of the NYS Council on Hunger and Food Policy, the Food Pantries for the Capital District, and the New York State Community Food Assistance Network is working together to **convene Food as Medicine providers and stakeholders on June 30 from 1:00 - 3:00pm.**

To register for the kickoff, click [here](#)!

Whether already engaged in food and nutrition security services in NYS or if you are interested, please complete [this survey](#), to facilitate connections to resources and discover best practices.

Contact [Ellie Wilson](#) or [Alex Alam El Din](#) with questions.



Washington County Annual Picnic for Individuals 60+

Washington County Office for Aging and Disabilities Resource Center facilitates an annual picnic for individuals age 60 and older in our community. This is a great opportunity to share information about your organization and to meet the senior ambassadors of Washington County. There is a \$150 suggested contribution that covers the cost of your table, entertainment, and picnic supplies, etc. However, the contribution will be waived for non-profits in exchange for volunteer assistance.

To reserve your spot and to discuss details, Please contact [Mindy Dudley](#) by June 24, 2022.

Best Practices: Low Threshold MAT Access and Peer Support with Joe Cavallo July 28, 2022

Join **Joe Cavallo**, Director of Mobile Recovery Services, and Certified Peer Recovery Advocate, **Elise Demers**, from First Steps to Recovery to learn more about low-threshold MAT access and the model that they provide to clients to assist people who use drugs.

To register for this free webinar, click [here](#).

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT Training) September 28, 2022

Join **Allison Reynolds** from the Council for Prevention for a FREE SBIRT Training! SBIRT is an integrated, public health approach to the delivery of early intervention and treatment services for persons with substance use disorders and those at risk of developing these disorders. SBIRT is an evidence-based training and will assist in identifying individuals with problems using or at risk for substance use disorders. This training incorporates screening for all types of substance use with brief, tailored feedback and advice. SBIRT is reimbursable - billing codes are available.

To register for this event, click [here](#).

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 position:

- **Regional Care Coordination Specialist**
- **Enrollment Specialist**

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 Heart Network is hiring!

The Heart Network has been awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant and is seeking a Network Business Manager.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://heartnetwork.org/about-us/job-opportunities/>.

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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