



CAROLINA HEALTH CENTERS, INC.
PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 20, 2019

Advocacy and Health Policy:

Federal:

- **Health Center Funding:** The House Appropriations committee released its fiscal year 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Funding bill. The draft legislation includes roughly \$1.68 billion for health centers, an increase of \$50 million compared to the amount appropriated in FY2019. The bill also includes \$20 million to support community-based nurse practitioner residency programs, with health centers being given a “preference” in the application process. The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee began their “mark up” the bill this afternoon, meaning that members of the subcommittee will meet to discuss the bill, and to vote on potential changes. Once the Subcommittee passes the bill, it will be sent to the full Appropriations Committee for additional discussion and amendments, and then eventually sent to the House floor for a vote, either as a stand-alone bill or as part of a package of Appropriations bills. Ultimately, the version passed by the House will need to be reconciled with the version passed by the Senate before the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2019. The Senate bill is still being developed, and likely won’t be released for a few more weeks; however, all indications are the strong bipartisan support for the health center program exists in both chambers.
- **340B Drug Pricing Program:** While there are no initiatives currently focusing attention specifically on 340B, the Administration remains focused on drug prices and 340B will continue to be factored into the debate. In addition, health centers continue to be threatened by discriminatory reimbursement. As reported last month, NACHC has convened Strategic Advisory Council for 340B to inform their agenda as it relates to legislation, policy, and messaging. Members are expected to also serve as key contacts with legislators and policy makers as strategies emerge. The first meeting of NACHC’s 340B Strategic Advisory Council was held on May 16, 2019 with future meetings to occur at least monthly.

State:

- Funding allocated to community health centers in Budget Proviso 33.20 remains intact at \$5 million.
- Senate bill 359, which includes two clauses of significant benefit to health center 340B pharmacies passed both the House and the Senate and now goes to the Governor for his signature making it law. As reported last month, the two clauses relevant to the health centers are: 1) a provision that a PBM may not “engage, in a pattern or practice of reimbursing independent pharmacies or pharmacists less than the amount that the pharmacy benefits

manager reimburses a pharmacy benefits manager affiliate for providing the same pharmacist services”; and 2) a provision that a PBM cannot require a pharmacy to collect from an insured patient a copayment that is greater than the amount the individual would pay for a prescription if that individual was paying cash. This clause provides support for the health center practice of reducing co-pays to the lower sliding fee price for eligible patients.

- We have followed and actively supported a number of other bills, including the Physician’s Assistant Bill, which modifies scope of practice and supervisions requirements for PAs similar to that of APRNs, which has been passed in both the House and Senate. The Emergency Refill Bill, which we supported with amendments to the labeling provisions, did pass.

CHC Staff and Leadership Development Activities:

- In addition to its regular meetings, the Leadership Team continued to work on OSV prep and is preparing for a planning session focused on roles, responsibilities organizational alignment.
- The Department of Early Childhood Services has been realigned within the Operations Division and announced following meetings with relevant stakeholders including the Director of ECS, the Director of Pediatrics, the relevant peer middle management staff, and the full ECS staff. To be discussed further under Old Business.
- Plans for a 2nd quarter middle management meeting deferred due to the demands of EHR conversion training.

Strategic and Operational Activities

- Department of Pharmacy:
 - Collaboration with CIMS and the SCPHCA to respond to discriminatory contract presented by Centene/ATC.
 - Pharmacy Operations Manager Amy Satterwhite has been selected to serve as a panelist for two national presentations at the upcoming 340B Coalition Summer Conference. In the first, Amy will be addressing pharmacy technicians from across the country about opportunities for career development in 340B pharmacies. In the second, Amy will serve on a panel discussing maintaining compliance when filling referral prescriptions with 340B inventory. Dominic Mellette and I are working with Amy to support the development of her presentations.
 - Monthly meeting of the Pharmacy Oversight Committee – expanded agenda with the minutes on file in office of the Financial Analyst/340B Program Compliance Manager.
- Department of Family Medicine: No specific activity to report.

- Department of Pediatrics:
 - Follow-up with pediatrician from Lauren, MS with plans to bring her to Greenwood for a return visit on May 31st – June 2nd to introduce her to TCC and evaluate opportunities for shared responsibilities at TCC and HTP.
 - Ongoing discussions about and follow-up with locum tenens pediatrician currently assigned to HTP, who appears to be an ideal fit for that practice and has expressed interest in employed position.
 - Recruitment team has also interviewed a third viable candidate from a Bon Secours practice that has closed. I was unavailable for this interview, but have participated in follow-up email discussions.
 - Initiated discussions with GHS/Prisma about increased support for pediatricians in the form of both recruitment incentives and additional premium call pay due to the hospital's failure to identify additional resources for hospital call. Dr. Ashley Jenkins has officially notified CHC of impending maternity leave (12 weeks) that will create addition challenges regarding call coverage. I am working on a meeting with GHS/Prisma leadership of the Clinton campus for the upcoming week.

- Behavioral Health:
 - Consulted with BH experts on the Board of Directors and collaborated with CFO and CDO in the development and submission of CHC's application for HRSA's 2019 Integrated Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) grant. This non-competitive grant will provide \$145,000 in one-time funding with the goal of increasing SUD/BH visits as tracked on the UDS. CHC's application focuses on needed coordination of existing services, community outreach and engagement, and expansion of services in response to identified need.

- CIMS:
 - As co-chair, I facilitated the monthly meeting of the CIMS Development Committee. The charge of this newly formed committee is two-fold: to develop and perpetuate leadership within the existing partner, and to expand knowledge of the CIMS model among health centers not currently in the partnership and develop due diligence for new partnership offerings.
 - The year-end "play book" strategy that was so successful last year has been expanded to an ongoing strategy with bi-monthly huddled of health center staff responsible for population health management. This is placing significant demand on our population health staff at a time when the EHR conversion is consuming most of the time and energy of support staff; however, we are maintaining our performance on incentive based measures to the best of staff's ability.

- SCPHCA:
 - Attended the SCPHCA monthly meetings via tele-conference.

- The 2019 Clinical Retreat of the SCPHCA is scheduled for June 7-9, 2109 in Myrtle Beach. CHC's site manager for McCormick Family Practice, Tim Bookert has been selected as a speaker for the retreat.
- I am serving on the planning committee for the 2019 Annual Conference and Board Governance Training.

Consulting:

- Consulting engagements in progress:
 - Under contract with 340B Health for the design and coordination of two CHC Expert Sessions for the 340B Coalition 2019 Summer Conference. Consulting fee = \$5,000 plus waiver of \$1,000 conference registration.
 - To date session topics have been identified, session descriptions with specific objectives submitted, and speakers confirmed prior to the contract deadline.
 - The date and location of the meeting is July 15-17, 2019 in Washington, D.C.
 - Staff meeting presentation on Integrated Approach to Promoting the Value of 340B for Low Country Health Care System scheduled for Wednesday, May 22nd. No fee/honorarium at the discretion of our neighboring health center.
- Consulting agreements pending:
 - Continue to work with the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers to develop a comprehensive statewide 340B training program that will consist of several topic specific webinars and conclude with a face-to-face capstone summit in January 2020. Needs assessment survey and proposed MOA have been submitted to the PACHC. Total fees proposed = \$7,500

Miscellaneous CEO Activity:

No miscellaneous activity to report.

Report of travel and personal time in April/May 2019

Business travel:

- No out of area business travel during this reporting period.

Personal Time:

Annual leave: 4 hours on Monday, May 6th

Sick leave: 8 hours throughout time period

If you have any questions or would like additional information on any of the above my contact information is as follows: sveer@carolinahealthcenters.org or 864-554-7102