



President's Report to the Board of Directors

Monday, August 23, 2021

- **Funding:**

- \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill passed – no health center related provisions
- Proposed second infrastructure package would make investments in health care, education, and child care.
- Budget reconciliation includes \$148 million increase for health centers for total of \$1.8 billion – but likely to have a continuing resolution (CR) at current funding levels.

- **COVID 19 Response:**

- United States HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra announced vaccination against COVID-19 as an employee health requirement for all “front facing” HHS personnel.

- **340B Drug Pricing Program:**

- PROTECT 340B Bill – prohibiting discriminatory reimbursement of 340B pharmacies - gaining support, but still no co-signers from SC.
- Developing mitigation strategy at the national level in case the “pay for” legislation for the infrastructure bill includes previously proposed provisions that shift 340B savings to the state.

- **Other:**

- The HEALTH Act proposed pay parity for audio only telehealth encounters.

Advocacy & Health Policy National Focus

www.hcadvocacy.org



• State activity:

- General Assembly will take up allocation of COVID funding during brief September Sine Die session.
 - Potential for a state grant program for entities providing wrap around support services such as outreach and education.
- Major portion of the allocation discussion will not take place until regular session convenes in January.
- Escalating controversy around prohibition on mask mandates and COVID vaccine requirements:
 - S.177 passed in the Senate allows health care providers to require vaccination – not likely to be negated by any House action.
 - On August 17th SC Supreme Court ruled in favor of USC clearing the way for educational institutions to implement mask mandates.
- SC DHEC Upstate CARES Panel:
 - Attention shifted to collaboration on health care organization policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19 as an employee health requirement and condition of employment.

Advocacy & Health Policy State Focus

www.hcadvocacy.org



- **Leadership and Staff Development:**

- Leadership Team weekly briefings ongoing.
- Dr. Dominic Mellette and Sue Veer have completed virtual component of UCLA/Johnson and Johnson Health Care Executive Program and are preparing for 1-week on campus capstone.
- Annual leadership team evaluation:
 - All self assessment complete, 4 evaluations complete, 1 meeting pending.
 - Leadership Profile will be presented to Executive Committee in October.
- NACHC Workforce Development Grant/Health Equity:
 - 4 initial learning sessions held with selected staff – facilitated by outside consultant.
 - Developing next steps from list of proposed actions generated during these meetings.

- **Covid 19 Response:**

- Primary focus for the month: implementing COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment:
 - Board action
 - Initial announcement, outline, and FAQs
 - Procedures for medical and religious exemptions
 - Procedures for weekly testing of unvaccinated
 - CEO taking lead in employee communication

- **Administration Department:**

- Monthly department meeting.

- **Clinical Departments:**

- **Department of Pediatrics:**

- No specific action to report.

- **Department of Family Medicine:**

- Collaborated with CMO and Medical Director to develop pilot recruitment strategy paying educational stipend during 3rd year of residency for desirable candidates.

- **Department of Pharmacy:**

- On site following break in and burglary. Brooke Holloway identified to authorities as single point of contact to coordinate all investigative activities. Dr. Dominic Mellette taking lead on DEA, DHEC, and HRSA compliance requirements. .

- **Integrated Behavioral Health:**

- No specific action to report.

- **Funding:**

- Nothing new to report.

Strategic & Operational Updates

- **Board Development activities:**

- Preliminary discussion with potential candidate from CFFP – scheduling call with Development Committee.
 - This candidate was a no-show to interview.
 - Secured new recommendation from provider and have made initial outreach but no response as of this writing.

- **Strategic Planning activities:**

- This has been another major focus of my work during this reporting period.
- Participated in the Phase 2 Strategic Planning Session with Board.
- Outlined process for facilitation of the retreat with the leadership team.
- Compiled retreat material to be distributed to the Board.
- Over the 2 next weeks, I will be developing the retreat presentation materials.

Board Development and Engagement

- Participated in regular meetings of those partnerships and affiliations listed. Notable activities this reporting period include:
- **OCHIN:**
 - CEO Steering Committee held monthly.
 - Also participating in monthly Progressive Leadership Lab.
- **SCPHCA:**
 - Monthly meetings of Legislative Committee, 330 Network, and Board of Directors.
- **CIMS:**
 - Monthly meetings of Managing Partners.
 - Chair of Clinical and Care Coordination Committee which meets monthly, and in which CHC's Quality and Population Health team are active and well-respected participants.
- **Beckman Center for Mental Health Services:**
 - Now under the oversight of Director of Behavioral Health.

External Partnerships & Affiliations

Community Integrated Management Services (CIMS)

- Managing Partner – Parliamentarian
- Chair of the Clinical and Care Coordination Committee

South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA)

- Board Member
- Chair of Legislative Committee
- Lead on 340B Task Force

National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

- Board Member
- Member of Legislative, Health Policy, and Rural Health Committees
 - Chair of 340B/Pharmacy Access Work Group
 - Member of Task Force on Undoing Racism
- Member of the Oversight Team for Organizational Assessment

Beckman Center for Mental Health Services

OCHIN CEO Steering Committee

New potential external collaboration: **Greenwood Together**

- Greenwood economic and community development cooperative led by:
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - City of Greenwood
 - Uptown Greenwood Development Corporation
- Corporate participation from academia, civic organizations, tourism and hospitality sector, manufacturing, utility providers, science and technology based industries, and of course ... health care.
- Sue Veer participating on Health Care Workforce Development Committee.
- Invited to join CEO Steering Committee.

External Partnerships & Affiliations

Community Integrated Management Services (CIMS)

- Managing Partner – Parliamentarian
- Chair of the Clinical and Care Coordination Committee

South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA)

- Board Member
- Chair of Legislative Committee
- Lead on 340B Task Force

National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)

- Board Member
- Member of Legislative, Health Policy, and Rural Health Committees
 - Chair of 340B/Pharmacy Access Work Group
 - Member of Task Force on Undoing Racism

Beckman Center for Mental Health Services

OCHIN CEO Steering Committee

Consulting Activities

- Continue under retainer with the Connecticut and Texas Primary Care Associations to inform and assist with the response to the assault on 340B:
 - TACHC Monthly retainer = \$500
 - CHCACT Quarterly retainer = \$1,250
- Planning and coordination of 2021 340B Coalition Summer Conference is complete with contract secured for 2022 Winter Conference.
 - 2021 Summer Conference is complete.
 - Invoice issued for services rendered = \$6,437.50
 - Initial planning meeting held for 2022 Winter Conference which will be held in person with a virtual option for those preferring to remain distanced.

SV Personal Leave Time

July 27, 2021 – August 22, 2021

- 4 hours of Annual Leave
 - 4 hours of Sick Leave
- Will be on Sick Leave from August 23 - 31, 2021 with Brooke Holloway serving as Executive on Duty during that time

Please don't hesitate to email or call with any questions you may have or additional information needed:

sveer@carolinahealthcenters.org

864-554-7102 (mobile phone)