



President's Report to the Board of Directors

Monday, April 26, 2021

- **Funding:**

- Allocation of additional \$1.6 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be allocated to health center capital projects expected to be awarded in May.
 - \$500K base with formula method allocation for each health center. Will involve a pseudo-competitive grant application.
- Continued advocacy around additional health center funding in Infrastructure Bill.
- Health center annual appropriations proposed at \$2.2 billion with over 200 co-signers to Dear Colleague letter in the House.

- **Covid Response:**

- Health Center Covid 19 Vaccine Program with direct allocation opened up to all centers.
 - A summary of the program was distributed with last month's report.
- Mask distribution program initiated.

- **340B Drug Pricing Program:**

- No substantive development on the national front though positive communication from HHS.
- Several states are blazing a trail of anti-discrimination legislation to protect 340B entities from loss of savings.

Advocacy & Health Policy

www.hcadvocacy.org



- **State activity:**

- Budget request for \$8 million in health center funding is solid going into the home stretch.
- Following progress of 6 bills:
 - H.4100 – State Appropriations
 - H.3620/S.514 – “Hate Crimes Bill”
 - S.2 – Reorganization of state cabinet level agencies into Department of Public and Behavioral Health
 - S.503 – Expands scope of practice of APPs to include orders for home health
 - S.455 – Expanded categories for temporary licensure of graduate nurses
 - S.712 – Health Professional Loan Forgiveness
- DHEC established CARES Panel (Community Assessment review and Equity) has met twice, elected panel chair and co-chair, and begun working on mapping vaccine effort and resources.

Advocacy & Health Policy

www.hcadvocacy.org



Strategic & Operational Updates

- **Leadership and Staff Development:**

- Leadership Team weekly briefings on Tuesdays.
- Dr. Dominic Mellette and Sue Veer applied as a 2-person team to the 2021 UCLA/Johnson and Johnson Health Care Executive Program and accepted! The live online portion of the program will be held Wednesday and Thursday *every other week*, from May 19 - July 29, 2021 and will run from 9:00am - 1:45pm PT each day. The program will conclude in-person at UCLA from September 13 - 16, 2021.

- **Covid 19 Response:**

- Participating in weekly response team meetings and every-other-week provider briefings as available.
- Responsible for compilation and submission of weekly report to HRSA.
- Organizational focus has shifted from testing to vaccination with Dr. Simons and Miriam Ferguson as co-leader of that effort.

- **Clinical Departments:**

- Department of Pediatrics:
 - TCC redesign previewed with leadership team with plans to preview with Board of Directors at may meeting.
- Department of Family Medicine:
 - No specific actions to report.
- Department of Pharmacy:
 - No specific actions to report.
- Integrated Behavioral Health:
 - Adjusted leadership position to Director of Behavioral Health to signify the establishment of our integrated Department of Behavioral Health.
 - Pediatric position filled and on track to fill Family Medicine position.

- **Funding:**

- Leadership team held a planning session around allocation of ARPA funds.
 - General guiding principles:
 - Funds will be allocated based on identified need
 - Priority will be given to projects and initiatives previously identified plans and priorities; and
 - Projects and initiatives must be sustainable beyond this one-time funding.
 - General financial management approach:
 - One time necessary expenditures to be covered include:
 - Roll out of AccuShelf to all practices (drives accuracy and efficiency in medication administration);
 - Replace aged-out vehicles in fleet;
 - Complete roll out of digital x-ray;
 - Potential purchase of generator for RX; and
 - Allocate the allowable \$500K in capital to the renovations at Lakelands Family Practice.
 - Allocate remaining funds to supporting salaries not covered by the HRSA grant allowing for retained program income to be used to support priorities already identified on the Strategic Plan.
- Applied for a \$10,000 Workforce Development Grant focusing on reducing racial and ethnic health disparities (language submitted in online application attached to this report).

Strategic & Operational Updates

- Executive Committee Meeting on Wednesday, April 14th – report to follow.
- Board Development activities:
 - Increased point of care information and promotion.
 - Pharmacy staff identified 2 potential candidates:
 - 1 excluded due to previous employment relationship;
 - Outreach to other candidate in process; and
 - Additional recommendations pending.
 - Request Board action to end Medical Leave status for existing Board member.

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:**
 - Community Stakeholders meeting upcoming – BHC Jessica Jacobs and I attended virtually.

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

NACHC:

- Participating as a member of the BOD task force appointed to develop an RFP and oversee vendor selection for a forensic organizational assessment. During this reporting period:
 - We have recommended a final candidate to the Board and a contract has been finalized.
 - Chair has requested that the 3-member task force remain engaged and oversee the process throughout the assessment.
- **Task Force on Undoing Racism:**
 - Decided to re-interview two vendor candidates for the initial training and consultation.
- **Other Board activity:**
 - June meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in person.
 - My term on the Board expires in September 2021. The NACHC Board Chair has asked that I run for re-election for an additional term given my involvement in the Organizational Assessment process, which will be ongoing for at least another year.
 - Request Board Action to approved Resolution support NACHC Board service (Board Resolution attached).

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:
 - Monthly retainer = \$500 each.
 - Texas PCA has asked for a review of their 340B Policies and Procedures which would be billed at the hourly rate of \$125.
- Pharmacy Oversight Committee has been retained by HopeHealth in Florence to be on “stand-by” for consultation as they move forward with opening 3 entity owned pharmacies.
 - Monthly retainer = \$500 (not subject to any salary allocation).
- Planning and coordination of 2021 340B Coalition Summer Conference in underway with previous contract terms in place.

SV Personal Leave Time

March 20, 2021 – April 25, 2021

- ½ day of Annual Leave taken with Board Chair approval.

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)