



President's Report to the Board of Directors

Monday, May 24, 2021

• Funding:

- Received announcement of allocation of the remaining \$1.6 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for health center capital projects.
 - \$500K base and \$11 per patient = approx. \$800,000
- Day of advocacy for health center funding in Infrastructure Bill (no specific ask)
- Remain on track for annual appropriation for Community Health Center Program = \$2.2 billion.

• Covid Response:

- No new federal activity to report.

• 340B Drug Pricing Program:

- HRSA issued letters to 6 offending manufacturers finding them in violation of 340B statute for not providing 340B priced medications to CE contract pharmacies with potential civil monetary penalties to be paid to CEs harmed.
 - CHC interviewed once again by Bloomberg Law following action.
- HRSA issued guidance to rescind Insulin/EpiPen Rule – may result in promulgation of new rule
 - CHC provided testimony to U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on Thursday, May 20th.

Advocacy & Health Policy

www.hcadvocacy.org



• State activity:

- Budget request for health centers sent to conference committee at \$5 million
- 6 bills of interest remain in play:
 - 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) meets weekly – SV serving as Chair.
 - Weekly meetings provide excellent opportunity for networking around ideas for vaccine encouragement and outreach to small pockets of unvaccinated population.

Advocacy & Health Policy

www.hcadvocacy.org



Strategic & Operational Updates

• Leadership and Staff Development:

- Leadership Team weekly briefings on Tuesdays and have collaborated on plans for allocation of ARPA funding.
- Dr. Dominic Mellette and Sue Veer attended first week of classes in the 2021 UCLA/Johnson and Johnson Health Care Executive Program. Course requirement is the completion of a Community Health Improvement Project that could be implemented by your organization. DM and SV are developing a list of potential projects. Classes are Wednesday and Thursday *every other week*, 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.
- Leadership focus for last week was on strategies for increasing acceptance of vaccine among employees.

• Clinical Departments:

- Department of Pediatrics:
 - Focus on helping to facilitate collaboration between services on transition of peds patients to adult medicine.
- Department of Family Medicine:
 - Focus on helping to facilitate a FT provider's request for reduced patient care hours.
- Department of Pharmacy:
 - No specific action to report.
- Integrated Behavioral Health:
 - No specific action to report.

• Funding:

- Leadership continues to discuss and prepare for grant submission for ARPA funds based on the following:
 - 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.
- Received Notice of Award for Workforce Development Grant focusing on reducing racial and ethnic health disparities:
 - Awarded \$15,000 - \$5,000 above the maximum amount allowable.
 - Miriam Ferguson and Sue Veer have held initial meeting with consultant.

Strategic & Operational Updates

-
- **Board Development activities:**
 - Meeting of Board Development Committee with review and proposed revisions of Board Development Plan.
 - Interviewed potential candidate for board membership.
 - Both items to be covered under Committee Reports.
 - **Strategic Planning activities:**
 - Brooke Holloway and Sue Veer met with committee chair to develop plan and timeline for 2022-25 strategic planning process.
 - To be covered under Committee Reports.

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:
 - Selected consulting firm and held 2 initial meetings. The consultants and NACHC Chair have requested that the 3 person RFP Task Force continue on to provide oversight of the process ensuring objectivity and board engagement.
- **Task Force on Undoing Racism:**
 - No activity to report.
- **Other Board activity:**
 - June meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in person.
 - My term on the Board expires in September 2021. Application has been submitted with CHC Board Resolution to run for second term and I have conducted campaign outreach to the 6 states in Region 4 to solicit their support.

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 – **Completed and paid.**
- 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.
 - Session designed and panelists confirmed.
 - Contract received to continue engagement for the 2022 Winter Conference.

SV Personal Leave Time

April 27, 2021 – May 24, 2021

- 1 full and 2 half days of annual leave.
 - 2 half days of CE 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)