



President's Report to the Board of Directors

Monday, January 25, 2021

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- **Funding:**

- Health center mandatory funding stream secured for 3 years.
- Received Notice of Award for Hypertension Grant
- Biden announcement re: support for health centers and their critical role in vaccine deployment.

Today, President-Elect Joe Biden proposed the expansion of Community Health Centers to fight health disparities in the COVID-19 pandemic. Declaring that “equity is essential to our COVID response,” Biden detailed a five-point plan that focuses on providing COVID vaccinations in marginalized, medically underserved communities. Among the highlights of the plan are mobilizing federally supported vaccination sites across the country, invoking the Defense Production Act to boost vaccine supply and surging the public health force.

“Within the first month of our Administration, we are going to deploy mobile clinics, moving from community to community, that will partner with Community Health Centers and local primary care doctors to offer vaccines to hard-hit and hard-to-reach communities,” said Biden.

Other key highlights of the Biden plan include:

- Launching a new program with health centers so they can directly access vaccines where they are needed. The Administration will also encourage jurisdictions to engage and work closely with health centers in community vaccination planning.
- Ensuring that health centers have the resources they need to successfully launch vaccination programs.
- Calling on Congress for additional funds to support health centers and the Department of Health and Human Services to start new programs to provide guidance and technical assistance to providers nationwide.
- Mobilize a public health jobs program to support the COVID-19 response and funding 100,000 public health workers to nearly triple the public health workforce for community health tasks such as vaccine outreach and contact tracing. These individuals would eventually transition into community health roles to build long-term public health capacity and improve quality of care and reduce hospitalizations for underserved and low-income communities.

• The 340B Drug Pricing Program:

- Manufacturer assault on contract pharmacy:
 - General Counsel for HHS issued a strongly worded advisory opinion that clearly declared the action of manufacturers withholding 340B pricing for covered entity contract pharmacies to be in violation of the statute.
 - At least three manufacturers (Lilly, Astra Zeneca, and Sanofi) rejected the opinion based on the counter-argument that contract pharmacy is neither required or even allowed by the 340B statute. These manufacturers have filed suit against HHS.
 - Following publication of the Final Rule on Administrative Dispute Resolution, NACHC shifted course away from legal action against HHS and has filed a formal dispute on behalf of member health centers. CHC signed on to that dispute filing.
- Trump Executive Order re: insulin and injectable epinephrine:
 - Finalized with effective date of January 22, 2021.
 - 11th hour action on the part of Biden Administration to delay effective date to March 21, 2021.
- No movement on proposed shift to rebate model; but,
- New threat: Gilead sole source pharmacy for PrEP.

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- State activity:

- SV assumed responsibility as Chair of SCPHCA Legislative Committee on 12/1/20.
- Finalized and SCPHCA Board of Directors adopted 2021 Legislative Agenda (distributed with these slides).
- State Policy and Issues Forum held in a virtual format on January 15th.
- Budget request to General Assembly increased to \$8 million (\$5 million received last year).
- Issued SCPHCA letter of support for additional state funding of Choose Well program.
- Planned white paper outlining the “wish list” for funding and policy changes necessary to promote virtual health care.
 - Considering signing on to legislative request put forward by South Carolina Telehealth Alliance.

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- **Leadership and Staff Development:**
 - Leadership Team weekly briefings continue each Monday.
 - Alyson Waters accepted the promotion to Executive Assistant.
- **Covid 19 Response:**
 - Participating in weekly response team meetings and every-other-week provider briefings.
 - Responsible for compilation and submission of weekly report to HRSA which has been expanded to include vaccination data.
 - Focus is shifting to vaccine deployment – Miriam Ferguson to provide detail.
 - Leadership is evaluating adjustments to FFCRA and emergency leave parameters – Brooke Holloway to discuss.
- **Department of Pediatrics:**
 - Implemented planning for pediatric practice (satellite of Hometown Pediatrics) to be co-located at Lakeland Family Practice.
 - Offer extended and accepted by Dr. Jessica Groot – to join Hometown Pediatrics in August.
 - Continuing discussions with Dr. David Bowen – pediatrician with family connection and interest in settling in Greenwood

Strategic & Operational Updates

- **Department of Family Medicine:**
 - No specific activities to report.
- **Department of Pharmacy:**
 - No specific activities to report.
- **Integrated Behavioral Health:**
 - Hiring process underway.
 - Monthly behavioral health webinars and office hours resumed for staff.
- **Funding:**
 - HRSA Budget Period Renewal application submitted.
 - Received Notice of Award for HRSA supplemental grant focusing on hypertension control.
 - Upcoming HRSA supplemental grant for consideration: HIV/Aids and PreP.
- **Board Development:**
 - Joint meeting of Chair and Immediate Past Chair.
 - Identified training opportunities for incoming Board Chair – Chair and CEO planning to attend NACHC Board Boot Camp (to be held virtually in March).
 - Working on renewed outreach campaign to identify potential additional Board members.

Strategic & Operational Updates

- Participated in regular meetings of those partnerships and affiliations listed. Notable activities this reporting period include:
- OCHIN:
 - CEO Steering Committee held monthly.
- SCPHCA:
 - Monthly meetings of Legislative Committee, 330 Network, and Board of Directors.
- CIMS:
 - Monthly meetings of committees and Managing Partners.
 - Partners Mid-Year Meeting scheduled for January 29th to be held in virtual format.
- NACHC:
 - Daily ongoing communication and collaboration around Boden transition and 340B issues.
 - Monthly meeting of **Task Force on Undoing Racism**.
 - Appointed to a small ad-hoc work group comprised of Board members for the purpose of overseeing the RFP and vendor selection for organizational assessment. Meetings of this group with RFP released on 12/31/20 and questions from interested vendors addressed by 1/15/21.

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
- Planning and coordination of 2021 340B Coalition Winter Conference nearly complete
 - Current hours = 60 billable @ \$125.00 per hour
 - Material complete and sessions are being prerecorded throughout the last 2 weeks of January to be aired in half-day sessions from February 17th – 24th.

SV Personal Leave Time

November 23, 2020 – January 22, 2021

- CHC holidays = 40 hours
- Sick leave = 8 hours
- Annual leave = 16 hours

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

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