Due to Easter Week and Spring break for many of us, there will be no BLT published next week. Hope everyone has a Happy Easter with family and friends.

Southeastern Health part of award-winning partnership for health information exchange (HIE)

Lumberton, NC (March 15, 2013) – Southeastern Health is one of the five founding members of a health information exchange whose collaborative efforts have received national recognition.

The community based health information exchange touches approximately 807,850 lives throughout the region. Coastal Connect Health Information Exchange (CCHIE), a community-based health information exchange in southeastern North Carolina, received a national healthcare achievement Award. Amerinet, a national healthcare solutions organization, announced the winners of its 2013 Member Achievement Awards and named Coastal Connect Health Information Exchange as a recipient in its “Community Impact and Innovation” category. Amerinet reported a record-breaking number of entries this year, and out of those they selected 12 outstanding projects that demonstrated both innovation and excellence in the development and execution of programs that impacted patient care within its communities and lowered costs for providers. Southeastern Health is one of five unaffiliated hospitals in southeastern North Carolina that is connected to CCHIE. As one of CCHIE’s founding hospitals, Southeastern has played a key role in the technology’s implementation and community rollout.
CCHIE uses technology that creates a secure connection between unaffiliated hospitals and practices for the exchange of real-time results and patient referral tracking as well as secure, role-based access to inpatient encounters. The build-out of CCHIE functionality has been an ongoing story of teamwork and progress that has spanned eleven counties throughout southeastern North Carolina. In only eighteen months and with a staff of less than ten, CCHIE has connected 201 unaffiliated practices, representing 715 providers, and five unaffiliated hospitals. From its beginnings in 2009, CCHIE’s vision has been to improve the health of citizens in Eastern North Carolina by distributing secure and confidential electronic health care information among providers and consumers. Four years later, we are seeing how the HIE applications have enhanced and supported vision across the continuum of care in our communities.

This will bring national attention to the work completed in this region, including Lumberton. CCHIE has brought entities to the table to collaborate in a way that had never before been achieved due to the diverse representation on our governance board. Putting aside competition to maintain a patient centric focus, we achieved a unique exchange of ideas rarely seen across the nation, much less in rural communities like our own. Perhaps what is more innovative than our collaboration is the technology that resulted from this project, which allows disparate systems to communicate through bi-directional data exchange for Results Delivery, Referral Tracking/Secure Communication and Patient Encounter Look Up.

About Coastal Connect Health Information Exchange

Coastal Connect Health Information Exchange (CCHIE) is a nonprofit electronic information network which allows healthcare providers to securely share information to coordinate and enhance medical care. For more information, please visit: www.coastalconnect.org


Meaningful Use (MU) Update

**Note:** Program Deadline for 2012 Attestation is 4/30/13 for NC Medicaid.
Upcoming NC Medicaid EHR Incentives / MU Webinars

April 3rd – Hospitals and the NC Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

Hospitals play a unique role in NC’s HIT landscape. In this webinar we will be reviewing hospital-specific information such as how to accurately report HMO bed days and out-of-state days, calculating patient volume, Medicaid/Medicare attestation schedules, and much more. To all hospitals out there - this is your chance to have a hospital-specific guide through the NC Medicaid EHR Incentive Program!

Webinar Link: https://dhhs.ncgovconnect.com/hospitals/ (enter as guest) Note: No pre-register needed, this will take you directly into the webinar room.

Conference Dial-In Number: 877-810-9415

Participant Code: 6145639

CMS launches prepayment audits of Meaningful Use attesters

March 24, 2013 | By Marla Durben Hirsch

In what appears to be a shift in policy, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has begun auditing providers attesting to Meaningful Use of their electronic health record systems before doling out incentive payments, according to a report from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

CMS has targeted 5 to 10 percent of those who attested to Meaningful Use in January 2013, according to Elizabeth Holland, director of the Health IT Initiative Group’s Office of E-Health Standards and Services. Eligible professionals selected for audit were chosen both "randomly" and "based on protocols that identify suspicious or anomalous attestation data," according to the AAFP News Now article.

An additional 5 to 10 percent of physicians and others will be subject to post-payment audits, according to Holland. The audits are being conducted by Garden City, NY-based CPA firm Figliozzi and Company.

**Must read articles**

**Five years after merger, RRMC better off, president says**

By Emily Ford  
eford@salisburypost.com

SALISBURY — Rowan Regional Medical Center is operating in the black for the first time in years and has improved safety and quality of care since merging with Novant Health, hospital president Dari Caldwell said.

Five years after the merger, Caldwell said Rowan Regional is out of debt, has increased its market share and scores well on safety and clinical care measurements.

“In 2007, the hospital was struggling financially with tremendous debt,” said Caldwell, who met with several Rowan County mayors Friday to tout the improvements since merger.

Novant has contributed $95 million to pay off Rowan Regional’s debt, as well as giving $5 million to the hospital foundation. Novant also has invested more than $150 million in capital projects at the hospital, including new equipment and building renovations……..

[Link to article](http://www.salisburypost.com/article/20130322/SP01/130329877/0/SEARCH&slId=1)

**Novant makes ACO deal with Cigna**

Richard Craver/Winston-Salem Journal  
rcraver@wsjournal.com  
(336) 727-7376

Novant Health Inc. is riding the accountable-care wave by agreeing to an initiative with Cigna that affects more than 60,000 Cigna customers in the Carolinas. The program begins April 1.

Accountable-care organization (ACO) programs are part of a shift from a traditional fee-for-service model to one that focuses on early intervention and closer monitoring of patients with chronic diseases and the quality of care provided.

The goal for ACOs is to coordinate among hospitals, doctors, rehabilitation centers and other providers to eliminate duplicate procedures, prevent medical errors and keep patients healthier.
Patients most likely to see the immediate benefits of the program are those who need help managing such chronic conditions as diabetes or heart disease.

Cornerstone Healthcare signed a similar ACO partnership with Cigna in April 2012, as well as one with United Healthcare in January. Cigna said it has four ACO collaborations in the Carolinas, with the effort with Novant being its largest nationally...........


Must see media clips/internet links
We are pleased to share that we have now gone public with our HiTech + HiTouch video!

Click the link here
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiuPJSI2t6E&playnext=1&list=PL9CZabk3nD4H8nck6xZ7MWcBFo9kWLrui&feature=results_main

Cabarrus Family Medicine – Kannapolis and Concord released “Veronica’s Story”, a story that shares how their Virtual Care project for monitoring diabetes helps Veronica cope and successfully manage her condition. Please click the link here http://sproutvideo.com/videos/a49bd8b71a1ee5c42c?type=hd
Upcoming Meetings and Events

April 9th – Beacon Executive Committee Meeting – 7am – 8am CCofSP Large Conference Room or call in
May 10th NC HIT Stakeholders Summit – Raleigh, NC from 1-5pm
May 21st – May 23rd – Beacon National Meeting – Pew Charitable Trust, Washington DC
July 10th-12th – Public Health - National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO),
Dallas, TX

Career Opportunities

CCofSP Opportunities
Southern Piedmont Community Care Plan d/b/a Community Care of Southern Piedmont (CCofSP), a Beacon Community, is a nonprofit organization and one of fourteen (14) Community Care Networks currently serving Medicaid and dually-eligible enrollees across the state of North Carolina. The foundation is physician led and includes implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines, targeted care and population management, physician engagement and buy-in, local partnerships and collaborative arrangements with local hospitals, health departments, mental health providers and departments of social services. CCofSP serves three counties, Cabarrus, Rowan and Stanly.

If you want to join a dynamic team, enhance your career and make a difference in the lives of others, then CCofSP is the place to work. We offer a great work environment in all three locations, competitive salaries, excellent benefits (health, dental, vision, 403b), vacation/sick time after 90 days of employment and much more.

Southern Piedmont Beacon Community
845 Church Street North, Suite 104 Concord, NC 28025
http://www.ccofsp.com/beacon
Open Positions Available:
Executive Director

Visit our website at www.ccofsp.com

To apply, please email your resume and the position you are applying for to: HR@CCofSP.com

CCNC Opportunities
Community Care of North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that works collaboratively with physicians and other health care professionals to improve health care quality and restrain costs. We serve beneficiaries of Medicaid, Medicare and have begun partnerships with private sector organizations, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. If you want to make a difference in the health of North Carolinians, CCNC might be the place for you. Currently, we are seeking to fill the openings listed below. For more information contact HR Director John Dowd

Applications are currently being accepted for the following positions. For more information, please see the CCNC Careers page.

• Senior Analyst, Quality Measurement and Reporting
• IC Reports Developer
• Technical Integration Developer
• Health Educator

Positions at local CCNC networks
If you're interested in position at one of the 14 CCNC networks, please go to our Network Careers Page.

• Quality Improvement Director- Pinehurst, NC (Community Care of the Sandhills)
• Lead Nurse Care Manager- Raleigh, NC (CapitalCare Collaborative)

Cardinal Innovations
EHR/HIE Business Analyst

The Company
Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions is North Carolina’s largest Managed Care Organization providing Medicaid managed care and state-funded behavioral health plans. Our mission is to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and their families by creating and managing quality healthcare solutions for those who depend on the public system for their care. Our plans reflect the uniqueness of our local communities and are capable of making continual adjustments and improvements to meet the changing needs and priorities of our clients. Cardinal Innovations values the contribution of all
stakeholders, and our businesses are based on the principles of respect, collaboration, and mutual accountability.

About this Position
The Business Analyst position will assist in advancing Cardinal Innovations strategies by delivering Electronic Health Record (EHR) and Health Information Exchange (HIE) programs to our provider network to improve health outcomes across the array of services and to lower cost across those services. This position will work closely with various business and IT department leaders, software manufacturers, state and regional business partners and service providers in Cardinal Innovations provider network to refine strategies, develop and execute project details, and meet underlying business needs and objectives.

For additional information, including, Duties and Responsibilities, and Desired Skills and Education, please contact:

Tracy Lockard
Technical Programs Project Manager
Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions – Corporate
4855 Milestone Avenue
Kannapolis, NC 28081
Phone: 704-939-7868
tracy.lockard@cardinalinnovations.org

Helpful Links

Beacon Communities
http://www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/beacon-community-program

Southern Piedmont Beacon Community
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov__southern_piedmont_beacon_community/3327

NC Office of Health Information Technology
http://www.ncdhhs.gov/healthIT/

Southern Piedmont Beacon Community
845 Church Street North, Suite 104 Concord, NC 28025
http://www.ccofsp.com/beacon
NC MIPS - North Carolina’s Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment System
https://ncmips.nctracks.nc.gov/

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Program
http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/provider/ehr.htm

Medicaid service providers may attest for incentive payments on the NC-MIPS Portal at https://ncmips.nctracks.nc.gov/

North Carolina AHEC REC
https://www.ncahecrec.net/

Charlotte AHEC REC
http://www.charlotteahec.org/continuing_education/quality_initiatives/rec_hit_ipip.cfm

Northwest AHEC REC
http://www.wakehealth.edu/Northwest-AHEC/Regional-Extension-Center.htm

Stay connected, communicate, and collaborate with ONC

Browse the ONC websites at: healthIT.gov

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Subscribe, watch, and share:

- Twitter: @ONC_HealthIT
- YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/HHSonic
- LinkedIn: Health IT and Electronic Health Records
- Scribd: http://www.scribd.com/HealthIT/
- Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/healthit
- Health IT Buzz Blog

Stay connected with CMS

Browse the CMS Innovations website at: http://www.innovations.cms.gov/

CMS EHR Incentive Programs Centers for Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program
Potential Beacon Headlines in 2013:

A Beacon Community has safer hospitals
A Beacon Patient is a better informed patient
A Beacon Physician has the information they need to direct patient care
A Beacon Community keeps patients and families from falling through the cracks
A Beacon Community is a community that has bent the cost curve

Do you need to find a previous edition? They are available on our website located at
http://www.ccofsp.com/beacon-blt-wraps

Have a safe and wonderful weekend!

Happy Easter