CCNC Taps Former Biologics Executive to Run Operations

Ron Smith is CCNC’s new Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Smith will oversee all enterprise operations, sharpening CCNC’s business as it prepares to form new relationships with payers, providers, hospitals, and pharmacies.

“Ron knows how to run a business. He knows healthcare. And, he knows us,” said CCNC CEO Allen Dobson, MD. “He will lead our executive team in day-to-day operational decision making as we reposition CCNC for new opportunities today and post reform.”

Smith was formerly the Chief Operating Officer for Biologics, a national oncology services company of owned by the McKesson Corporation and held several leadership positions at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

Bakolia Takes on CCNC Chief Information Officer Role

George Bakolia, the State of North Carolina’s longest-serving CIO and a consultant to government and private industry, has accepted a permanent position with CCNC as its chief information officer. George has been contracting with CCNC since February 2016, leading the company’s drive to improve efficiencies, reduce costs and ensure that CCNC has the technology platform, people and capacity to meet new business needs.

Bakolia led the state of North Carolina in a number of major, first-time initiatives such as a statewide security assessment, enterprise project management office, statewide IT asset management and establishing a second State Data Center.

“We were extremely lucky to get George on board this year to help assess our current and future needs in this vital area,” said CCNC President and CEO Allen Dobson. “His extensive experience in both the public and private sector have guided our decisions and plans for the Informatics Center as we ramp up our capabilities to serve new partners, multiple payors and populations.

Connect with CCNC on Social Media!
Facebook: www.facebook.com/communitycarenc
Twitter: www.twitter.com/@communitycarenc
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/n3cn
**Community Care Physician Network Hits 1,000 Clinicians**

North Carolina’s independent physician clinically integrated network - Community Care Physician Network (CCPN) - continues to expand. See the most recent map of CCPN provider practice locations.

CCPN recently signed its 1,000th clinician. These physicians represent 300 physician practices from around the state, helping the network achieve the provider mass necessary for participating in value-based efforts like Medicaid ACOs, Medicare Shared Savings Plans and others.

**Landmark Opioid Bill Passed by Congress**

Before recessing for the summer, the U.S. Congress passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (S.524), also known as CARA. The legislation addresses the growing epidemic of opioid and substance use disorders in this country by authorizing “innovation grants” and other efforts to improve treatment for these disorders. The American College of Physicians (ACP), a major supporter of the bill, highlighted the following points in public statements:

- Developing a federal interagency task force to review, modify, and update best practices for pain management and prescribing pain medication.

- Providing grants to expand awareness and education of physicians, patients and healthcare providers regarding the opioid risks.

**CCNC Pioneers “Trauma Informed” Medical Care for Foster Children**

Understanding how trauma impacts foster children can impact testing and treatment decisions and ultimately can improve outcomes while lowering costs.

Physicians, for example, often order a battery of medical tests for a seven-year-old child with repeated gastrointestinal complaints. But, CCNC experts advise, with foster children, emotional concerns related to possible trauma be investigated first.

CCNC and its partners - the Department of Social Services, pediatricians and the NC Pediatric Society - are sharing such practical information, standardized common referral forms and getting more complete treatment histories to pediatricians. “Our goal is to help foster children receive higher quality and more personalized care,” said Tom Wroth, M.D., CCNC Chief Medical Officer and president of NC Community Care Networks.

“My work on this project has been extremely rewarding,” says Tami Hilton, Care Manager with Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear. “I feel like we have really improved the care experience and outcomes for these children.”

CCNC and its partners are also collaborating a series of “Fostering Health” tools posted on both the NC Peds and CCNC websites.

**CCNC Wil Pilot HEP C Medication Regimen**

NC DMA has tapped CCNC to conduct a Medicaid test pilot to determine the viability and practicality of a new class of Hepatitis C medications. These new drugs offer a cure rate above 95% and fewer side effects than traditional Hepatitis C regimens. But the regimen is extremely expensive and must be taken for 8-12 weeks.

“Medication adherence is extremely important with this medications,” says Dr. Wroth. “With nearly 20,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible Medicare-Medicaid patients with Hepatitis C across the state, treating the disease before it leads to catastrophic health problems for patients and huge costs for the State is imperative. However, at a pre-rebate cost of nearly $1,000 per day, it is equally critical that patients adhere to treatment regimens if the State is to realize the full value of this significant pharmaceutical investment. CCNC is working closely with patients and their physicians to support patients and ensure that they adhere to medication instructions.”

“The stakes are high for hepatitis C,” said Dr. Wroth, “both for patients in terms of future quality-of-life and for the State, in ensuring that major pharmaceutical expenditures really do hold down long-term costs. Supporting patient adherence to treatment regimens is the best way to maximize the public’s return-on-investment.”

**Sandhills Pediatrics Celebrates 50th Anniversary**

Congratulations to CCNC Founder Dr. David Bruton for starting a remarkable practice in Sandhills Pediatrics, recently celebrating 50 years of serving their community and an original CCNC practice. Also on hand for much of that time was Dr. Bill Stewart, a 34-year partner in the practice and currently a Board Member of CCNC, Inc. as well as Clinical Director for Community Care of the Sandhills. Kudos to all for their commitment to the health of their community! Don’t miss the story in the Southern Pines Pilot on the practice’s anniversary.

**CCNC Media Links**

**OPIOID/OVERDOSE ISSUES**


Brunswick Beacon: [Task Force Critical to Drug War](https://www.brunswickbeacon.com/news/tritons-local/2020/11/03/task-force-critical-to-drug-war/)