

CCNC Update

Community Care of North Carolina

9/30/2015

CCNC receives \$18.6 million Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative award Grant to support transformation of NC clinical practices

CCNC is one of 39 collaborative networks selected to participate in the *Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative* announced by Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. CCNC will receive up to \$3.5 million in the first year of a four-year grant to provide technical assistance to clinicians in North Carolina. CCNC will equip participating practices with tools, information, and network support needed to improve quality of care, increase patients' access to information, and spend health care dollars more wisely.



As a Practice Transformation Network, CCNC will help approximately 3,000 clinicians in independent medical practices and safety net clinics to expand their quality improvement capacity, learn from one another, and achieve common goals of improved care, better health and reduced cost. See **TCPI AWARD**, page 4.

Medicaid Transformation Bill Gets Approval General Assembly OKs Managed Care

Earlier this month the NC General Assembly enacted House Bill 372, Medicaid Transformation. The bill calls for a sweeping remake of the state's Medicaid program, including a move to flat per-person payments ("capitation") and a combination of 10 regional, physician-led prepaid health plans and three statewide prepaid health plans likely to be national insurance players active in other state Medicaid programs.

The legislation directs DHHS to continue CCNC's contract through the transition to the new capitated system, a process expected to take three to five years. HB 372 eliminates the state's Medicaid office and directs See **MEDICAID REFORM**, page 4.

"We see a bright future for CCNC and expect to continue to play a significant role in improving Medicaid under the new system. We look forward to working with the Administration and legislature to make our state's reform effort successful."

– Dr. L. Allen Dobson, Jr.

Publications

The September-October 2015 issue of the *NCMJ* features articles and commentary from a number of CCNC staffers:

- ["Readmission Patterns and Effectiveness of Transitional Care Among Medicaid Patients With Schizophrenia and Medical Comorbidity,"](#)
Carlos Jackson, Annette DuBard, Amelia Mahan, Jerry McKee and Theo Pikoulas.
- ["Dissemination and Adoption of Guidelines: The Experience of Community Care of North Carolina,"](#)
Betsey Tilson
- ["Pregnancy Medical Home Care Pathways Improve Quality of Perinatal Care and Birth Outcomes,"](#)
Kate Berrien,
- Additionally, *North Carolina Pharmacists* spotlights Project Lazarus efforts to involve pharmacists in preventing and reducing opioid-related overdose deaths. ["Combating the Prescription Drug Over-dose Epidemic: Opportunities for Pharmacist Involvement in Naloxone Distribution."](#)



Smoking Cessation Campaign Launches in October

CCNC Joins Initiative to Curb Tobacco Use in NC



While our state has made great strides to curb tobacco addiction, one out of every five North Carolinians is a smoker. A campaign scheduled to launch next month aims to help North

Carolinians break the cycle of tobacco use. “Race to Quit, NC” represents the first time that the state’s leading health care advocates have come together to offer North Carolinians the help they need to end smoking and tobacco use. CCNC and more than 50 other organizations including leading patient groups, health care delivery systems, nonprofits and state and local agencies are

collaborating on the campaign. The campaign will launch on Monday **Oct. 5**, and throughout the week campaign partners will hold events to raise awareness of the campaign and to promote the Race to Quit, NC website which features educational materials and comprehensive resources to help tobacco users quit. To follow the campaign on social media, look for the hashtag #RacetoQuitNC.

Upcoming Events

NC Population Health Summit

Oct. 7, 2015; Raleigh, NC. Event will cover cardiovascular disease interventions and screening campaigns in NC; population health improvement tools, quality initiatives, etc. Registration is [here](#).

10th Annual Jim Bernstein Health Leadership Dinner & Lecture

Oct. 8, 2015: Chapel Hill, NC
The annual event convenes health professionals and stakeholders from across NC to network and learn from one another and to honor past, present, and future contributions to leadership in our state’s health sector. Info on tickets is [here](#).

NC Care Transitions Summit

Jan. 28-19, 2016; Durham, NC.
Theme: “Engaging Patients, Professionals and Populations in Care Transitions,” hosted by NC Alliance for Effective Care Transitions. Info about submitting abstracts is [here](#).

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CCNC Staff at Work

Presenting at the NCHICA Annual Conference on the use of Health IT by safety net practices were **Annette DuBard, MD, MPH** and **Marya Upchurch. Carlos Jackson, PhD**, presented to the same group on CCNC’s use of ‘impactability scores’ in population health efforts.



This month the McDowell County Health Coalition and its partners will roll out a county-wide program called McDowell Access to Care and Health (MATCH). **Community Care of Western North Carolina** will join McDowell Hospital, Carolinas Medical and others as partners in coordinating services to the county’s most vulnerable patients. (via *McDowell News*)

Community Care Plan of Eastern Carolina was spotlighted for the chronic pain initiative program and specifically their work with women who have chronic pain, a substance abuse disorder or a mental health issue. CCNC networks offer health care professionals a Pregnancy Medical Home course that guides providers on what to do when confronted with substance abuse disorders. Networks are now working to implement the program throughout CCNC’s medical homes. (via NC Healthcare News)

In an interview with AJMC, **Troy Trygstad**, PharmD, MBA, PhD, talked CCNC performance measures and global outcomes. “What’s fun and interesting and I think works really well, is you have multiple providers who have shared metrics at a global level,” said Trygstad, “but at the same time the various actors that are involved in working together to get to that global outcome have metrics that can help them understand better how they’re contributing to that global outcome.”



Awards and Honors

NCHICA Health Transformation Award Winner



Maher Abukaf and **Kim Roberts, PharmD** took home the win at the NCHICA Health IT Transformation Awards on Sept. 14. In the Population Health Management category, the team won for their work on PHARMACeHOME, a web-based platform that links the silos of care common in medication records. "We applaud the exemplary work these organizations are doing to improve healthcare," said Jennifer Anderson, Executive Director of NCHICA. "It is through these types of technologies that we will transform the U.S. healthcare system." Congratulations to Kim and Maher!

CCNC Staff Complete Bernstein Fellowship

Amelia Mahan, MSW, LCSW and **Jill Boesel, MPH** recently completed their Bernstein Fellowships and will be recognized at the 10th Annual Jim Bernstein Health Leadership Dinner & Lecture in October.



The Bernstein Fellows Class of 2015 featuring Amelia Mahan (center) and Jill Boesel (center right).

As a Bernstein Fellow, Amelia designed and implemented a project that bridged the gap between pregnancy medical care and substance abuse treatment. Jill engaged a workgroup comprised of Halifax area hospitals, ambulatory practices and long-term care facilities to establish and pilot the exchange of Direct Secure Messaging to support community-based transitions of care and referrals.

Earls Wins Lifetime Achievement Award

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation presented **Marian Earls, MD** (center in photo below) with a 2015 Lifetime Achievement Recognition award. For more than 30 years Dr. Earls has delivered care to some of NC's most vulnerable patients. Her role in improving behavioral health, dental care, foster care, asthma, sickle cell disease and childhood obesity has positioned NC as a leader in delivering health care to children on Medicaid.



Pikoulas Nominated for Pharmacy Award

Theo Pikoulas, PharmD, BCPP has been nominated for the Generation Rx Award of Excellence from the Cardinal Health Foundation. The award recognizes excellence in community-based prescription drug abuse prevention. The award will be presented at the APhA Annual Meeting in March. Good luck, Theo!

CCNC Honors Employees for Five Years of Service

Congratulations to Central Office staff celebrating 5 years of service.



From left: Justin Oh, Tork Wade, Annette DuBard, Sonal Kalra, Michelle Collins, Jennifer Cockerham, John Dowd, Jill Ruppenkamp, Tatjana Eason, Rick Lane, Patti Walsh, Jun Versola and Chris Huwe.

SVP of business development named

CCNC is pleased to welcome **Dan Weatherly** as Senior Vice President for Business Development and Provider Partnerships. Dan will be responsible for developing partnerships with physicians and hospitals in the new healthcare environment. Most recently he served as president of the Harnett Health System where he is credited with working with area physicians to strengthen patient care, recruiting specialists and improving finances. He has extensive experience in physician practice administration and physician relations.



MEDICAID REFORM (From page one.)

the creation of the Division of Health Benefits, a new DHHS division that will administer the Medicaid program.

Employees of the new agency would not be subject to the State Personnel Act and a Governor-appointed agency head would be confirmed by the House and Senate. A new joint legislative committee is created to oversee the Medicaid and NC Health Choice programs.

“We are gratified that the legislature saw value in continuing our role for now,” said **L. Allen Dobson, Jr., MD**, Community Care of North Carolina, Inc. president and CEO. “This will allow us to continue to improve quality for Medicaid patients and save taxpayers money while the new system is developed. And we believe CCNC will be well-positioned to participate in the new arrangement.”

Important early milestones in the reform plan include: report by the new Division of Health Benefits to the legislature on transition efforts (March, 2016) and submission of a waiver application and State Plan Amendments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (on or before June, 2016). The confirmation provisions impacting the new agency head won't be effective until 2021.

The legislation continues CCNC operations for 18 months after CMS approves the 1115 waiver – a process that could take up to four years. In the meantime, CCNC will continue to work with DHHS and the Medicaid program through the transition to a capitated system.

Finally, the bill transfers the Health Information Exchange over to state control. To read the full text of House Bill 372, click [here](#) or go to the legislature's website at www.ncleg.net and search bills for “H372.”

TCPI AWARD (From page one.)

The network will provide transformation coaches, quality improvement support and population health management development to help participating clinicians meet the initiative's phases of transformation and associated milestones, clinical and operational results.

*““We're extremely pleased to receive additional resources in our ongoing mission to support practice improvement, especially for rural and safety net providers serving the poor, elderly, medically fragile and citizens living in rural areas of our state
– Dr. L. Allen Dobson, Jr.*

CCNC's aim is to assist medical practices in North Carolina in moving through the five states of transformation:

- 1) Setting aims and developing basic capabilities, e. g. specifying goals, beginning to examine baseline data, training staff in improvement methods
- 2) Reporting and using data to generate improvements, e.g. Analyzing quality and utilization measures, identifying community partners, implementing specific care management strategies, incorporating regular PDSA tests of change in the practice setting
- 3) Achieving aims of lowering costs, better health and better care, e.g., optimizing use of registries and reports, exchanging health information outside of the practice, involving patients and families in quality improvement, linking patients to a provider and care team
- 4) Getting to benchmark status, e.g., integrating advanced access strategies, identifying high risk patients, providing care coordination for patients following hospitalization, reducing unnecessary testing and hospitalizations
- 5) Practice has demonstrated capability to generate better care, better health at lower cost, e.g., sustaining improvements in key metrics for at least one year, and developing business acumen in alternative payment models.

The awards are part of a comprehensive strategy advanced by the Affordable Care Act that enables new levels of coordination, continuity, and integration of care, while transitioning volume-driven systems to value-based, patient-centered, health care services. It builds upon successful models and programs such as the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Organization Program, Partnership for Patients with Hospital Engagement Networks, and Accountable Care Organizations.

CCNC in the News

News coverage on CCNC, Medicaid Reform and the legislative process has been massive. Key stories are noted below.

Triangle Biz Journal

[Lawmakers reach tentative agreement to transform Medicaid](#)

Winston Salem Journal

[Auditors Focus on DHHS is Appropriate](#)

Winston Salem Journal

[Medicaid Reform plan draws praise, wary looks](#)

Winston Salem Journal

[Editorial: Give more time for public input before vote](#)

News and Observer

[NC budget cuts \\$110 million from regional mental health](#)

NC Health News

[Medicaid overhaul only needs governor's signature](#)

Rocky Mount Telegram/AP

[Framework changing Medicaid spending heads to Governor](#)

News and Observer

[NC legislature approves Medicaid privatization](#)

Triad City Beat

[Forsyth lawmaker and former healthcare exec sells Medicaid reform](#)

News and Observer – Dome

[McCrorry signs Medicaid privatization bill](#)

AP, WCTI

[Medicaid overhaul now officially law](#)

NC Academy of Family Physicians

[Reformed Medicaid expected to combine different approaches](#)

NC Health News

[Medicaid Overhaul Plan Only Needs Governor's Signature](#)

WFAE-FM

[Breaking down the Medicaid overhaul](#) (web + audio)

Winston-Salem Journal / News and Observer / Asheboro Courier Tribune

Chris Fitzsimon Op-ed: [Dollar's argument against Medicaid reform impressive but in vain](#)

Fayetteville Observer

[Is this reform or a sweet deal for Big Insurance?](#)

News & Observer -- Letters to the editor

[Holly Biola, MD](#)

[Anita Toney, RN](#)

Daily Reflector

[Tom Campbell: Medicaid reform](#)

NC Policy Watch

[Eleventh hour maneuvers at the General Assembly](#)

High Country Press

[CCNC/Student practicum leads to NCQA pilot](#)

News and Observer

[Federal investigators probing big contracts, personnel at DHHS](#)

WRAL-TV

[Feds launch investigation into DHHS contracts, hiring](#)

WNCN-TV

[Wos did not resign due to subpoenas, DHHS head says](#)

Lincoln Times-News

[Local legislators defend Medicaid privatization](#)

