**Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, Inc.**

**Executive Director’s Report to the Board, October 2, 2019**

**Program Updates**

**Rural Health Network Program**

The Rural Health Network contract entered its fourth and final quarter of the current contract year (the first of five) on October 1st. John Ray and I prepared and submitted a budget modification request to reallocate unspent funds. Approval of this request is pending.

**Transportation Program Update**

In an effort to expand operations, the Transportation Program will acquire two new vehicles by the end of the calendar year. One will replace a vehicle, so the total fleet size will grow by one. We are also exploring lease programs to further expand the fleet.

**Resource Development**

**General Operating Support from the Dyson Foundation**

I am delighted to report that the Dyson Foundation awarded the Healthcare Consortium two additional years of General Operating Support, totaling $98,000 ($50,000 in 2020 and $48,000 in 2021). The funds will be used to support the Helpers for Health Project, the Prescription Access and Referral Program, and the Transportation Program.

**County Budget Request**

On August 20th, we submitted our annual request in the amount of $52,000 (a $1,000 or 2% increase over last year’s request/allocation) to the Columbia County Board of Supervisors for support from the 2020 County Budget. We will learn the fate of this request when the county budget is approved in early December.

**Annual application to FCH**

In early September, we submitted our annual request in the amount of $25,000 to the Foundation for Community Health (Sharon, CT) for funds to support the Transportation Program. Approval is expected later this fall.

**Subcontract with HCDI for ICAN services**

The Community Service Society (CSS) awarded the Healthy Capital District Initiative (HCDI) a seven-month contract to administer the Independent Consumer Advisory Network, or ICAN, in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties. Through a subcontract with HCDI, the Consortium will receive wage and fringe support to “buy time” from our two Information and Assistance Specialists to do ICAN outreach, education, and direct service work in Columbia and Greene Counties. This is exactly aligned with one of our strategic objectives—contracting with larger, urban partners to conduct work in our rural community. Our ICAN subcontract goes into effect October 1, 2019 and ends April 30, 2019. There is a possibility of additional funding thereafter.

**Personnel Updates**

Community Engagement Coordinator, Lisa Heintz, separated from the agency on August 16th to take the same position with a health system serving Ulster, Dutchess and Sullivan Counties. We are currently advertising for her replacement and have completed first interviews with four people thus far. We will bring back three of the four for second interviews within the month.

**Board and Community Relations**

* On September 6th, the agency had its annual Summer Picnic. It was well-attended and seemed to be enjoyed by all.
* On Tuesday, September 10th, I recorded a segment on Eric Martin’s radio show about the Community Cancer Funds. We also focused our September *For Your Health* column on the Funds.
* Friday, September 13th through Sunday, September 15th, I attended the Healthcare Trustees of NYS Conference in Saratoga Springs
* On Monday, September 16th, I attended the third of four total meetings of the Primary Care Quality Rating Stakeholder Workgroup in-person in NYC
* September 26-27, I attended the annual conference of the New York State Association for Rural Health in Niagara Falls

**Upcoming Events**

* On Thursday, October 3rd, the Transportation Program team will attend a meeting organized by the Foundation for Community Health of all its transportation grantees. The meeting will take place at Geer Village in Canaan, CT.
* On Saturday, October 5th, the Healthcare Consortium will be well-represented at the Annual Golden Gathering.
* On Saturday, October 19th, I will present on Long Term Care at the Hillsdale Safe at Home meeting. Lynda Scheer, Information and Assistance Specialist, will also be in attendance.
* On Friday, November 1st, I will attend a full-day ACES training presented by the Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center at the FDR Library in Hyde Park.
* On Tuesday, November 12th, I will attend a meeting of the Community Advisory Committee for the NYS Health Foundation

**Key Board Date**

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 4th at 2:30 p.m.** At this meeting, we will have a presentation on the scope of the annual audit by the Bonadio Group, as well as a presentation by Dorothy Cucinelli, the CEO of the Capital Behavioral Health Network (CBHN), the Behavioral Health Care Collaborative (BHCC) serving Columbia and Greene Counties. We will also have light refreshments to celebrate the holidays ahead.