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

**Executive Director’s Report to the Board, April 3, 2019**

**Program Updates**

**The Helpers for Health Project**

Good news! On February 16th, we were notified that the Dyson Foundation awarded us a General Operating Support grant equal to $50,000, which will be used, in part, to support the **Helpers for Health Project** (formerly the SUNY Women’s Health Project) that officially became a program of the Consortium on April 1, 2019; the two Community Health Workers who were employed by the SUNY Women’s Health Project, Maria Hansberry and Jackie Fason, started in our employ on the same day. Initially, Maria and Jackie will work about 5 hours per week on the project, continuing with many of their existing activities as we develop protocols and tools for more expansive work in the future. Kelly McGiffert will serve as Project Coordinator, while Lisa Thomas will provide ultimate program oversight.

**Navigator Program Update**

Good news! On Friday, March 8th, we were notified that NYSDOH awarded us a grant equal to $1,650,000 ($330,000 per year) for the five years starting August 1, 2019. We submitted a revised work plan, budget and numerous other pieces of supporting documentation by the deadline of Friday, March 29th. This amount will permit us to retain all existing staff, including Program Director Lisa Thomas at .6FTE, Program Assistant Rashtab Mahmud at .6FTE, and 4.0 FTE Navigators.

The existing contract, which was due to expire on April 30, 2019, will be extended by three months (May, June, July); the extension contract will be in the amount of $78,750, prorated for the 3 months based on the annual award amount of $315,000.

**Tobacco Control Program Update**

Good news! On Friday, March 29th, we were notified that NYSDOH awarded us a grant equal to $1,500,000 ($300,000 per year) for the five years starting July 1, 2019. A revised work plan, budget and numerous other pieces of supporting documentation will be due by April 15, 2019. This amount will permit us to retain all existing staff, equal to 3.0FTE.

**NYConnects Program Update**

CCOFA successfully amended the April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 contract upward, from $90,000 to $140,000, so the County will be able to reimburse us for all expenses incurred in that period (roughly $131,400). Although the next contract period begins April 1, 2019, NYSOFA has not yet advised the County what this contract year’s allocation will be, nor have they issued a request for CCOFA to submit the budget and work plan. This means that we will--as we have in the past--operate without a contract for what will probably be several months (last year NYSOFA requested the budget in July and approved it in December!). That said, they’re “good for it” and we have little to no concerns about accumulating the receivables.

**Transportation Program Update**

On March 13th, several staff and I attended a training provided by BHNNY to become “users” of the Circulation platform for non-medical transport. Also attending were care managers from the Columbia County Mental Health Center and the Mental Health Association of Columbia and Greene Counties. The challenges of operating this system, which is predicated on “dynamic ride sharing” solutions like Lyft, were made clear. In the absence of a robust network of Lyft drivers, the Healthcare Consortium remains a good option, but it was plain that the scheduling of trips must be done in close coordination. A 2-month pilot project in Columbia County will begin on April 1st.

**Personnel Updates**

We received a very poor response to our advertisements for the position of Consumer Assistance Specialist—a “blended” position that included Navigator at .6FTE and NYConnects at .4FTE—so we have decided not to fill it. Instead, we will operate Navigator with 4.0FTEs, and pursue having a paid part-time intern in NYConnects over the summer (late May through August). This will allow us to meet the needs of the NYConnects Program without making an employment commitment, and also to evaluate the performance of a person in the role prior to deciding to hire them.

**Policy Updates**

The NYS Budget passed on March 31st. An excellent summary of the Budget’s provisions pertaining to health can be found in the Assembly’s press release: <https://nyassembly.gov/Press/files/20190401d.php>.

**Other things of interest**

* The State Office of Rural Health has invited me to serve on the Governor’s Rural Health Council
* NYSDOH has invited me to participate in the Primary Care Provider Quality Rating Stakeholder Group
* NYSARH has appointed me to be its representative on the NYSDOH’s Ad Hoc Committee to Lead the Prevention Agenda
* I’ve been reappointed to the NYHealth Foundation’s Community Advisory Committee for another 3-yr term

**Board and Community Relations**

* On February 25th, I met with the Workforce Development Committee, a workgroup of the Human Services Advisory Council, at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck
* On February 28th, I attended the full day Population Health Summit at the Empire State Plaza
* On March 8th, I attended the last Community Advisory Committee Meeting of the SUNY Women’s Health Project, where the transfer of the project to the Consortium was announced to community partners
* On March 22nd and April 2nd, I attended the Community Health Improvement Plan health issue prioritization meetings in Greene and Columbia Counties, respectively.
* On March 26th, we had the first of three Long Term Care Council meetings of the calendar year at CGCC
* The Strategic Planning Committee met on 2/8, 3/22 and 3/29, during which time it concluded its Action SWOT.

**Upcoming Events**

* We will have our Annual Meeting and Recognition Event on Wednesday, April 3rd beginning at 4:15 p.m. at Hudson Hall.
* The Tobacco Control Program will have its Annual Partners in Prevention Breakfast on Thursday, April 4th beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Solaris.
* On Thursday, April 4th, we will host a number of transportation programs that are recipients of funding from the Foundation for Community Health in a “learning circle.”
* The Strategic Planning Committee will meet on Friday, April 5th to prioritize the actions generated during the Action SWOT process and discuss how to engage the remaining board members in the next phase of strategic planning.
* The Director will be on vacation out of the area from Friday, April 19th through Friday, April 26th, returning to the office on Monday, April 29th.
* The Director will attend the New York State Public Health Association Conference in Cortland, NY on Thursday, May 2nd through Friday, May 3rd.