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

**Executive Director’s Report to the Board at its meeting of August 1, 2018**

**Program Updates**

Rural Health Network Program Update

Following the restoration of funds to the RHN Program at the 2017-2018 funding levels, we submitted a new budget in the amount of $142,037, with justification and a revised work plan for the 9-month extension period of April 1st through December 31, 2018. Then, on June 8th, we were advised that we would receive an *additional* $41,832, bringing our current year budget to $183,868. On June 22nd, we submitted a revised budget, budget justification and work plan for this amount, which was approved on July 9th. We are currently amending the contract and hope to be able to voucher for first quarter expenses by the end of August.

Also, we submitted our application for the next 5-year RHN grant cycle, requesting $240,000/yr, on June 26th.

Navigator Program Update

We have submitted a budget and work plan for the 7-month contract that begins on October 1, 2018 and ends on April 30, 2019. Approval is pending. Our contract manager has changed (again).

Meanwhile, on June 29th, the NYSDOH issued the RFP for the Navigator Program. We submitted the Letter of Intent to apply and are already drafting the application, which must be submitted by August 10th. We will apply for the maximum funding amount of $330,000 to serve Columbia and Greene Counties. However, we have serious challenges with the budget, which, according to the Q&A released yesterday, limits indirect costs to 10% and administrative costs (which includes all of the Program Director’s time) to 5%, or $16, 500.

NYConnects Program Update

As noted in my last report, NYSOFA issued an allocation table for the NYConnects Program which allotted $99,928 to Columbia County for the 12-month period starting April 1, 2018. We prepared a draft budget for this amount to submit to NYSOFA when requested. In the meantime, we pursued contracting with the County for this amount so that expenses, which we are incurring, can be reimbursed timely. Since we were advised this is not possible, we asked our very helpful partners at CCOFA to prod NYSOFA for some written assurance that funding is forthcoming, which was received.

Meanwhile, Lisa Thomas initiated a conversation with our contract manager about the minimal funding amount Columbia County receives, particularly in comparison with neighboring Greene County. We were asked to submit a request for additional funding, which we did on June 15th.

On July 3rd, Kevin McDonald received a letter from NYSOFA assuring him that funding in excess of $140,000 would be coming to Columbia (ask and ye shall receive!!!). This new funding allows us to hire an additional Information and Assistance Specialist. We advertised for this position internally and are excited to report that Kelly McGiffert, currently a Navigator, will assume this role at .8FTE effective September 4th. We will be advertising for someone to fill her full-time Navigator position shortly.

Cancer Services Program Update

Good news! St. Peter’s Health Partners received the award for the next round of Cancer Services Program funding, which means the project will be directed by Darcy Connor. We are both happy for her and happy for residents in Columbia and Greene Counties, because we know Darcy will ensure they continue to be served. Also, we received detailed instructions from NYSDOH for transitioning the program, now underway.

Transportation Program Update

The Transportation Program continues its work with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, or VEIC, to conduct an evaluation and strategic planning study of the program, funded by the Foundation for Community Health. We received a draft report from VEIC in mid-June, which was disappointing, and had a call to redirect and focus their efforts in more productive ways. We are hopeful the final report will be more useful.

DSRIP

On April 30th, we executed a Phase III contract with BHNNY and have met with Meg Wallingford, the new COO, on two separate occasions to discuss possible contract work.

Meanwhile, we are getting dangerously close to finalizing the contract with Circulation, the web-based platform that is being utilized by the two Albany-area DSRIP Performing Provider Systems (PPS’s), the Alliance for Better Health (“the Alliance”) and Better Healthcare for Northeastern NY (BHNNY).  It’s our internal goal to be fully contracted and ready to go live by September.

**New Developments**

The SUNY Women’s Health Project

Dr. Annis Golden, the Director of the SUNY Women’s Health Project, and I met on July 2nd to discuss the future of the project. Annis has funding from the Dyson Foundation through February 2019 to help transition the project to a permanent non-profit home. I have agreed that the Consortium will be this home. Funding from Dyson will support a modest subcontract, including the wages and fringe for a .2FTE Field Coordinator; Kelly McGiffert will assume this role in addition to her NYConnects duties effective September 4th. Thereafter, I am confident it will be possible to secure additional funding to support the work of a coordinator and the three community health workers, who currently work a combined total of 15 hours/week. This is a very low-risk, no-cost way of starting a community health worker program, which I continue to believe will be a key component of healthcare delivery to high-risk populations in the future.

**Board and Community Relations**

Since I last reported at the Board meeting in June…

* On Tuesday, June 19th, I attended the Greenport Gardens Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
* On Monday, June 25th, I attended a luncheon of the Twin County Recovery Services Board of Directors and staff at Creekside in Catskill, where I was voted onto the BOD
* On Wednesday, June 27th, I attended the PHIP Advisory Committee Meeting at St. Mary’s in Troy

**Upcoming Events**

* The ad hoc **Audit Committee will meet at Wednesday, August 8th at 1 p.m**.
* On Wednesday, August 22nd I will be facilitating a SWOT analysis for the Department of Health
* The ad hoc **Strategic Planning Committee will meet on Thursday, August 23rd from 1 to 3 p.m**.
* In early September (date tbd) I will be meeting with a number of partners, including CCDOH, HRHCare, and HCDI, that are being convened by the Foundation for Community Health to discuss dental services
* From September 13-16th, I will be attending the Hospital Trustees of NYS Conference in Saratoga
* On September 20th, I will be attending a meeting of transportation programs convened by the Foundation for Community Health
* **On Friday, September 21st, we will be having the Consortium’s 20th Anniversary Community Block Party from 3-6 p.m. in Lower Hudson. Mark your calendars and please come!**
* September 27th-28th, I will be attending the annual conference of the New York State Association for Rural Health