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

**Board of Director’s meeting**

**February 7, 2018**

**Executive Director’s Report**

**Outreach and Community Relations**

* On December 6th, I represented the Consortium at the Greene County Chamber of Commerce’s Holiday Party
* On December 7th, I participated in the meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Population Health Improvement Program of the Capital Region, administered by the Healthy Capital District Initiative
* On January 30th, I attended a meeting of the Capital District Behavioral Health Care Collaborative at the Addictions Care Center of Albany
* February 5th-8th, 2018 I attended the National Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington, DC as one of five members of a delegation from the New York State Association for Rural Health

**Program Management**

* We received approval for the revised work plan and budget for the Cancer Services Program that reflected reduced funding amounts, and executed the amended contract
* We received approval from the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) for the NYConnects Program for the period of October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018
* On January 26th, NYSDOH released the Request for Applications for the Breast, Cervical and Colorectal Cancer Services Program for a 5-year competitive grant to start on October 1, 2018. Unfortunately, NYSDOH will only be funding 22 contractors (as opposed to the 35 currently working across the state now) to serve 22 new service areas.  Columbia and Greene Counties will be included in a service area that also includes Albany, Rensselaer and Saratoga Counties.  We are currently exploring the possibility of a partnership with Saratoga Hospital, which we expect to submit an application as the lead agency.
* The Governor’s Budget repeats the same bad trick of last year, which pooled multiple public health programs (estimates between 30 and 40) into four separate pools, and then cut each by 20%. The New York State Association for Rural Health is organizing a response to the proposed cuts, which includes letters to legislators, testimony and a day of advocacy in Albany on February 13th.

**Personnel Management**

* Jordyn Wartts, who was hired as the Public Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Cancer Services Program (CSP) in October 10, 2017, voluntarily separated from the agency on January 19, 2018.  Lynn Sanders, who is the Data Manager in CSP, will be retiring later this spring.  Since it is unlikely that the Consortium will apply to be the lead agency for this larger service area, and our current CSP contract will end on September 30, 2018, we will not attempt to fill the two vacant positions in CSP.  Instead, Program Director Darcy Connor will rely on Lynn Sanders, who has graciously agreed to return, as needed, on a temporary casual basis, and other staff within the agency to fulfill the functions of the program until it expires in the fall.

**Upcoming Events**

* NYSARH Legislative Advocacy Day on February 13th
* On Friday, February 16th, I will attend my first meeting as a member of the Board of the Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center in Poughkeepsie.
* On February 28th, I will attend Senator Kathy Marchione’s Forum on the Opioid Epidemic
* On March 28th, both the Healthcare Consortium and I will be honored by the Community Services Board at its Annual Dinner at Kozel’s.