

Issue 9  
August 2015

## Rolling Out a New Brand

A simplified name and improved website were launched the first week of August at an all-employee event. We've created a new look to go with our branded name "AHI" including an updated logo:  Our revised website (NEW URL [www.ahihealth.org](http://www.ahihealth.org)) gives each of our programs dedicated space to share information with you. Please click through the site to see new features, including events/meetings.

Along with the new URL are new email addresses. For the time being, current addresses will redirect, but please update your address book to <first initial><last name>@ahihealth.org for each of your AHI contacts.

Thank you for transitioning along with us. Our goal is to make information more accessible to you. Please share any feedback with [communications@ahihealth.org](mailto:communications@ahihealth.org).

## What is Population Health?



In the article, *What is Population Health?*, from the American Journal of Public Health, authors David Kindig and Greg Stoddart defined population health as the *outcomes and patterns of health determinants of a group of individuals, and policies and interventions that link the two.*

Because population health means different things to different people, we approached colleagues, partners, members and others with the question, **"What does population health mean to you/your program/organization?"** Here are some of the responses we received:



"We, as health care providers, are responsible for caring for the health outcomes for defined groups of patients (or populations) across the highest-quality continuum of care, at the lowest necessary cost. Our focus needs to be purposeful and include disease prevention, chronic disease management, and the social determinants of health."

~**Karen Ashline**, Assistant VP, Adirondacks ACO and Northern Adirondack Medical Home

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## Message from the CEO



At its core, population health is about helping people get and stay healthy so they can lead happy, productive and long lives. AHI is leading the regional charge in this effort, but we can't do it alone. It's the collective efforts of our partners that will best address community health needs.

AHI has been catalytic in the transformation of the health care system. As health care delivery, payment, reform and policy unfolds in complexity, we continue to serve as a collaborator that ensures our stakeholders are informed and engaged in the ever-changing process. Partners like you, on the front lines of change, will help us build a healthy future for everyone.

*Cathy*

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## What is Population Health?



“Population health means constantly assessing the health status and needs of



the population and providing support and interventions that reach our citizens; working with community partners on environmental and individual health improvement strategies for all residents, and creating a community that is a healthy place to live, work, learn and play.”

~*Patty Hunt, Director, Washington County Public Health*



“At Glens Falls Hospital, we think about population health in terms of our mission - to improve the health of people in our region by providing access to exceptional, affordable, and



patient-centered care,



every day, and in every setting. We

achieve this by working collaboratively in community, school, worksite and health care settings to improve the well-being and health outcomes for our patients, community members and the region as a whole.”

~*Tracy Mills, Sr. Dir., Planning and Business Development, Glens Falls Hospital*



“Population health management means having access to information that can help develop individual treatment plans as well as identify trends on a local and regional level.



This can give us the opportunity to create more general interventions based on locality, as well as specific interventions geared toward an individual based on data.”

~*Annette Parisi, Health Home Manager, AHI*

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## PHIP Addresses Health Disparities

The Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) is a new NYS DOH program that promotes the Institute of Healthcare Improvement’s Triple Aim of improving health care quality, population health, and lowering health care costs. It supports NYS’s Prevention Agenda 2013-2017, Health Improvement Plan and the State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP).



Our North Country PHIP will create and maintain the HealthyADK regional website. The website will have user-friendly access to community health data, links to evidence-based practice strategies and share information on initiatives in our region to address local issues. PHIP will support a data-driven approach to determining health priorities.

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## PHIP

The charge for all PHIP contractors is to work with our partners to identify and address health



disparities in the region. Using community health and demographic data, community-based organizations, agencies, and providers can better understand how social, economic, and/or environmental factors are



having an impact on health outcomes. Together we will review evidence-based practices and implement strategies to reduce obstacles to health and engage our community members in prevention and wellness to improve their opportunity to live long, healthy, productive lives. ●

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## What is Population Health?

“As a family practitioner, I believe it’s imperative for health care providers to expand upon our traditional views of what population



health management truly means. Success in keeping people in our region healthy will



depend on building a highly-integrated delivery system that promotes cooperative relationships between patients, primary care providers, specialists and other health care professionals to best serve our patients.”

~Kevin Gallagher, MD, Chief Medical Information Officer, Glens Falls Hospital



“I see the Medical Home and the work towards transforming the present health care system as the essence of improving population health and moving toward an evidence-based system of population health care management. The Triple

Aim for improving the health care system will help people move towards healthier lifestyles,



empower them to better manage their health and help to combat the growing cost of health care in our society.”

~Amy Zanghi, Health System Transformation Network Coordinator, AHI



“Population health is the focused effort, supported by analytics, to reduce disparities between different groups by applying evidence-



based strategies to a unique population. Its goal is to drive



health outcomes improvement while supporting the concept that health is not merely the absence of disease, but the attainment of physical, emotional and social well-being.”

~Elizabeth Zicari, President/Administrator, HCR Home Care

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## ARHN: Population Health is Our Purpose

Adirondack  
Rural Health  
NETWORK



Since launching in 1987, [AHI's Adirondack Rural Health Network's](#) (ARHN) fundamental purpose has been "population health improvement." ARHN is a community partnership from various sectors of health care working toward the common goal of improving our population's health. The network has been a catalyst for improving the health and well-being of our region's residents. The Community Health Planning Committee of ARHN works with public health and hospital partners on creating a multi-county regional Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA, a data-driven process, looks at a variety of health and prevention indicators in comparison to state and national benchmarks. Using the most current and relevant data, it ensures that hospitals and public health departments have the information they need to create plans to provide services and benefits that meet the needs of their communities.



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## What is Population Health?



"Canton-Potsdam Hospital, Behavioral Health Services, views population health as increased patient-centered access to primary and specialty services with viability for providers through improved quality. Population health must include education, prevention and well-coordinated, collaborative care across integrated networks with restrained cost and measurable outcomes."

*~Adam Bullock, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Canton-Potsdam Hospital*

## HIT: Integral to Population Health

Effective population health management for AHI's Performing Provider System (PPS) will require a coordinated strategy to ensure each participant has access to the information and tools that will maximize their opportunity to improve population health. In some cases, this means access to a fully-interoperable electronic health record (eHR) system. For others, the goal is a care management application capable of sharing information with the entire care team. The PPS will need to conduct analyses across the entire population to identify opportunities and assess performance.

There is a wide range of needs among PPS partners and this system must effectively share patient information to coordinate and deliver care without jeopardizing the security of our clients' Protected Health Information (PHI).