



DSRIP News

March 23, 2017

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Population Health Improvement Program Launches “It’s Time to Clear the Air in the North Country” Tobacco Use Reduction Initiative, Seeks Support from PPS Partners

In response to the continued high prevalence of tobacco use in the region, the North Country Population Health Improvement Program (NC PHIP) of AHI has established the North Country

Tobacco Use Reduction Task Force. The Task Force, comprised of individuals and organizations committed to improving the health of North Country communities, will promote strategies to reduce the use of all forms of tobacco products throughout the region via a new initiative, "*It's Time to Clear the Air in the North Country.*"

The Task Force will promote a comprehensive strategy that includes educating the region about the prevalence and impact of tobacco use, expanding and strengthening tobacco cessation services, promoting smoke-free policies, and raising the minimum legal sale age of tobacco products to 21 years of age throughout the NC PHIP's six North Country counties (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren and Washington).

AHI is asking all PPS partner agencies to consider expressing their support for reducing tobacco use and raising the minimum legal sale age for tobacco products to 21 years of age by completing and signing a Statement of Support found on the [HealthyADK website](#). The completed statement should then be scanned and submitted via email to phip@ahihealth.org.

For more information about this initiative and how to get involved, contact Tom Tallon, AHI PHIP Manager, at phip@ahihealth.org, or 518.480.0111, ext. 306.

Update: LEAN Process to Improve Home Care/Primary Care Communication, Responsiveness

First highlighted in the January 26 edition of *DSRIP News*, the Queensbury/Glens Falls Region Population Health Network (PHN) has identified an area for LEAN process improvement related to the [Hospital-Home Care Collaboration Solutions \(2.b.viii\) DSRIP Project](#) – communication and escalation of specific issues from home care to primary care providers to allow for more immediate response when necessary.

The southern team, in conjunction with the PHN leadership, has since taken steps to create a standardized approach for escalation of concerns from home care to primary care, in order to decrease avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions. A defined process flow has been developed for when home care makes a "code red" call to the PCP and attempts to de-escalate a patient situation in the home; scripts have been developed for both home care and primary care so it is known that a "rapid response" is needed; and educational tools have been developed for provider and staff training.

The amount of work that has been accomplished would not have been possible without the unprecedented level of collaboration between the home care agencies, primary care, and other stakeholders. "The Hospital-Home Care Project has created a platform to share common

challenges and create solutions that will benefit patients, providers, and our respective organizations,” stated Elizabeth Zicari, President of [HCR Home Care, Inc.](#), and the Hospital-Home Care Project Champion. “The focus on collaboration has created a more unified community of home care providers who share the common goal of improving care delivery and outcomes for the good of patients.”

This initiative will be piloted in the southern region and there are plans in place to replicate it in other areas of the PPS.

To learn more, please contact AHI’s [Betsey Towne](#), Provider Engagement Manager (Post-Acute Care), or [Sarah Martin](#), Provider Engagement Manager (Acute Care).

Registration Open for April 12 Saranac Lake/Essex County Region PHN Partner Meeting

The Saranac Lake/Essex County Region Population Health Network (PHN) will be holding a partner meeting from 9:00-10:30 a.m., Wednesday April 12, at Adirondack Health in Saranac Lake.

Visit the [AHI website](#) for more information.

[Register](#) for the meeting.

Training Opportunity: Health Literacy in the AHI PPS Offered in Three Regions

Module 2 of the Cultural Competency and Health Literacy (CCHL) Training Series, *Health Literacy in the AHI PPS*, is being offered in three regions.

The focus of this module, offered as a one-day training, is developing an understanding of health literacy, its role in providing high-quality care and services, and resources for improving both organizational and individual health literacy. Evidence-based practices promoting health literacy and improved health outcomes for individuals with mental health and substance abuse challenges will also be presented and discussed.

Individuals need only attend *one* of the sessions below. Sessions run from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. and seating is limited to 25 participants.

- Thursday, April 27, The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls. [Register](#) for this session.
- Friday, April 28, The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls. [Register](#) for this session.
- Tuesday, May 16, The Butcher Block, Plattsburgh. [Register](#) for this session.
- Wednesday, May 17, The Butcher Block, Plattsburgh. [Register](#) for this session.
- Thursday, June 1, The Crowne Plaza, Lake Placid. [Register](#) for this session.

- Friday, June 2, The Crowne Plaza, Lake Placid. [Register](#) for this session.

For more information, contact [Melissa Davey](#).

Health Care News and Resources

Please visit [Health Care News and Resources](#) for national, regional and local health care news and resources that may be relevant to your work.

If you have articles and resources to share, please forward to communications@ahihealth.org.

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Adirondack Health Institute

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