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In this issue, learn about the 2019 GCACH Opioid Summit, the 21st Annual Fundamental of Addiction Medicine conference, receive an update on WAFE Portal payments, and more!



2019
March

A Monthly Insight into the Greater Columbia ACH



GCACH report



Sharing Our Love for the Healthcare Industry

Written by Laura Sanchez, Washington State STEM Education Foundation

Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health's, Martin Sanchez, introduced careers in public health to nearly 75 Chiawana High School Freshmen at the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education) Like ME! event on February 20, 2019. One student said Martin was the most memorable professional because he was "a great speaker and works with all kinds of people from the medical field." Another student said they were now interested in a career in public health "to help people who need help when they don't have it."

The Washington State STEM Education Foundation created the STEM Like ME! program to drive curiosity and interest in the STEM-related careers. SLM! brings successful professionals into the classroom to share their career experience with students in an engaging way. Professionals interact in small groups with students, employing a hands-on experience that opens the door to a wide range of STEM fields. Students learn STEM careers are within their reach and offer exciting opportunities. Great job, Martin!



One of GCACH's Practice Transformation Navigators, Martin Sanchez, sharing his knowledge and passion of the Healthcare Industry to Chiawana High School Freshmen.

Washington Financial Executor (WAFE) Portal Update

Written by Becky Kolln, Director of Finance and Contracts

The table to the right outlines the payments made to our providers through the WAFE Portal in each of our project areas during 2019, and the year-end total for 2018. The Practice Transformation providers are doing a great job accomplishing their milestones and have been receiving payments for completing milestones in the first quarter.

The 2019 Local Health Improvement Network (LHIN) Contracts have been sent to the LHINs for signature. The first milestone payments will go out in April after meeting quarterly milestones.

WAFE Payments and Contracts

2019 PAYMENT BY USE CATEGORIES	TOTALS
Community Health Fund (Third Party Administrator Contracts)	\$ 740,032.69
Health Systems and Community Capacity Building	\$ 9,732.00
Integration Incentives (BHO Contracts)	
Provider Engagement (Practice Transformation Contracts)	\$ 3,098,651.00
Provider Performance and Quality Incentives	
Reserve / Contingency Fund	
2019 Total Payments	\$ 3,848,415.69
2018 Year End	\$ 4,495,434.89
Total Portal Payments to Date	\$ 8,343,850.58

Total payments made to providers.

current topics >>>

ACH Tribal Liaison Meeting Update

Written by Rubén Peralta, Community & Tribal Engagement Specialist

GCACH's Community and Tribal Engagement Specialist, Rubén Peralta, attended the ACH Tribal Liaison Meeting in Seattle last month. These meetings, and the bi-weekly teleconference meetings, serve the purpose of educating ACH Tribal Liaisons on tribal culture, tribal relationship with state and federal governments, and to share tribal efforts within our respective ACH regions.

The highlight of the February 22, 2019 meeting was the conversation regarding Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs) and the Community Health Aide Program (CHAP):

- The federal government required states to pass legislation allowing DHATs (Washington passed in 2017).
- The legislation, in order to pass and not be opposed by the Washington State Dental Association, said DHATs were only allowed on reservations and could only serve IHS eligible individuals.
- In alignment with the legislation, HCA wrote a State Plan Amendment (SPA) that allowed for Medicaid reimbursement for DHAT services delivered to IHS eligible individuals on reservations.
- CMS denied our SPA because it discriminated against non-IHS eligible individuals.
- New legislation this year allowing for DHATs in more settings - this should resolve the CMS arguments against the SPA as currently written.
- To view House Bill 1317, click here: [House Bill 1317](#)
- To view Senate Bill 5392, click here: [Senate Bill 5392](#)

Practice Transformation Success Stories

Written by Martin Sanchez and Jenna Shelton, Practice Transformation Navigators

Columbia County Health System

Many organizations are beginning to fill out their Practice Transformation Reporting Workbooks in preparation for quarter one reporting. Columbia County Health System (CCHS) deserves a special highlight for all of the effort that they have put in into Practice Transformation. From the beginning of the process, CEO, Shane McGuire, has been engaged and eager to assemble a Quality Improvement (QI) team designated to work on Practice Transformation. Throughout the first quarter, we have had several meetings and phone calls regarding Practice Transformation. With the funding that CCHS has received so far, they have been able to upgrade their Electronic Health Record (EHR), purchase software that will allow for patient rostering and patient risk stratification, pay for a Care Coordinator and have identified others areas where they will be investing the money that they earn when they fully complete the quarterly milestones. Thank you for all of your hard work Columbia County Health System!

Pullman Regional Hospital

This month the Practice Transformation team would like to spotlight Pullman Regional Hospital and Pullman Family Medicine for their efforts in practice transformation thus far. During the first quarter of Practice Transformation, both sites have been diligently working to understand the Practice Transformation milestones and how this work can positively impact their organization. The quality improvement (QI) teams are being championed by Clinical Project Manager, Deb Watson. Deb has done an excellent job of establishing a sense of ownership among all QI team members involved. Both sites have plans to roll out workflow changes to all sites, not only sites that have been selected for practice transformation. Currently, Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles are being conducted to determine the best practice for conducting Emergency Department follow-up calls at the clinic level. Moreover, additional resources are being added as a result of conversations about the milestones. Practice Transformation fits beautifully into the culture at Pullman Regional/Pullman Family Medicine. This was reflected by CEO, Scott Adams, during the latest QI team meeting, "I think it is important to realize that the work we are doing is not simply to receive some money from Greater Columbia. The efforts we are making are laying a foundation we hope to build on as we pursue the next era of excellence in healthcare in our community."

21st Annual Fundamental of Addiction Medicine Conference

Written by Diane Halo, Opioid Resource Network Project Manager

At the beginning of March, Greater Columbia ACH's Opioid Resource Network Project Manager, Diane Halo, attended the 21st Annual Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine Conference in Everett, Washington. The conference is considered the area's premiere event for providing the latest innovations and scientific developments in Addiction Medicine. Diane had the opportunity to learn from nationally and locally recognized experts during the conference. She attended presentations focusing on multidisciplinary options for patients with co-morbid pain and addiction, Washington state landscape for alcohol and drug use disorders, leveraging nurses to expand access to treatment for opioid use disorder and effects of addictive drugs on the brain.

Diane also had the opportunity to meet with four of the 26 speakers for the 2019 Trauma and the Opioid Crisis Summit; Medical Director at Swedish Pain Services Swedish Health System, Dr. Steven Santos; Deputy Chief Medical Officer for the Washington State Health Care Authority, Dr. Charissa Fontinos; Colleen LaBelle, MSN RN-BC CARN; and Director of UW Center for Neuroscience of Addiction, Pain and Emotion, Dr. Charles Chavkin. All speakers are eager to present on such an important topic.

Trauma and The Opioid Crisis: Coming Together to Advance Prevention, Care and Recovery

Written by Diane Halo, Opioid Resource Network Project Manager

The upcoming conference, *Trauma and the Opioid Crisis* will be a three-day event! There will be a public forum at Eisenhower High School in Yakima Washington on June 19, 2019. The topic will be "Addressing the Opioid Crisis in Our Communities."

The meetings on June 20-21, 2019, provide opportunities for learning about the most recent information and data to help inform a broad spectrum of health care providers. The pervasiveness of the opioid crisis and trauma informed care creates a much-needed discussion for physicians, nurses, EMTs, researchers, behavioral and social health providers, etc.

The goal of the conference in Yakima is to positively impact the lives of all health care providers in attendance and as a result, the lives of all of the patients they serve. We believe the opportunity to support this endeavor provides benefits to our sponsors, exhibitors, and community.

Please contact Diane Halo (dhalo@gcach.org) with any questions you may have. Thank you for your interest in this subject and the health care providers, patients, families and communities that are impacted.

Click here for the sponsorship and exhibitor information.

Reasons to consider becoming a sponsor or exhibitor:

1. Support a focused effort to deal with the opioid crisis
2. Build relationships with recognized experts in the field
3. Engagement opportunities with health care providers impacted by opioids
4. Opportunity to promote your organization's goods and services
5. Build a brand recognition associated with a positive inter-professional effort
6. Free directory of all members in attendance at the event.

To view the full prospectus for Trauma and The Opioid Crisis, click here: https://gcach.org/apps/website_eventDocuments/record/9024399011e20b93e078d7242b3644c7/opioidandtraumainformedsummitsponsorshipprospectus.pdf.

April 2019 Learning Collaborative/Leadership Council Meeting

Written by Sam Werdel, Director of Practice Transformation

During Greater Columbia ACH's [April Leadership Council Meeting/Learning Collaborative](#), we will have our local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) services presenting, with the topical area of focus being [Community Paramedicine](#). To help EMS agencies develop and operate Mobile Integrated Healthcare - Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) programs, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has compiled an MIH-CP Program Toolkit. The toolkit contains samples of forms, documents and questionnaires that EMS agencies are currently using to run their MIH-CP programs.

In addition, the website has a Knowledge Center to assist in researching, planning and developing their MIH-CP program. The documents include background information on MIH-CP, reference materials, case studies, articles, surveys and white papers. To view the MIH-CP Program Toolkit and visit the Knowledge Center, click here: <http://www.naemt.org/initiatives/mih-cp/mih-cp-program-toolkit>.

Please note, the April Learning Collaborative will coincide with the April Leadership Council Meeting. The convening will take place at [Columbia Basin College](#), room L102, from 9:00 am - 11:30 am on Thursday, April 18, 2019. Suggested attendees include Quality Improvement (QI) staff, Administrators, Managers, Panel Managers, EMS staff, and others wishing to learn more about the Practice Transformation process. For those participating in Practice Transformation, this convening will count towards the Learning Collaborative and Leadership Council Meeting attendance milestone.



720 West Court Street, Pasco, WA 99301

509-546-8934

www.gcach.org