Hello,

Do you ever link consumers with support services in outside organizations when an unaddressed need is hindering them from succeeding with the services you offer? Then we have just the thing for you! Check out our new Social Determinants of Health Resource Guide built to provide descriptions of regional social services available for people who identify a need using the AFBH and BHNYY Screening Tool. We also have an upcoming Munch and Mingle on self-care for you to learn how peers and experts keep burnout at bay.

Have you ever wondered which health issues are most disproportionate by race or socio-economic status and what can be done about it? See this quarter’s Health Disparity Report and join us at the next PHIPAC meeting to learn more about the needs and how organizations are changing their service strategies to reduce these disparities. Spoiler alert, changing how we engage with consumers is part of the answer. Read on for 2 great toolkits of strategies to improve consumer engagement and join us at the PHIPAC meeting to learn from our speakers. There’s much to learn!

Have you ever participated in your county’s community health improvement priority setting? We need your help! The prioritization process for the next cycle of the Prevention Agenda will be starting in January, so keep your eyes out for some new health needs summaries and upcoming meetings. We need your help! The prioritization process for the next cycle of the Prevention Agenda will be starting in January, so keep your eyes out for some new health needs summaries and upcoming meetings. We need your insights and experience about which health issues are impacting the people you serve. Our data only tells some of the story. Please plan to join us so that we are all considering as much of the story as possible before we choose county health improvement priorities for the coming few years.

See you soon,

Kevin Jobin-Davis
Executive Director, HCDI
Healthy Capital District Initiative has recently launched our "Social Determinants of Health Resource Guide". This guide was developed to serve as a comprehensive directory of service providers by topic for community members, providers and organizations in the Capital Region and beyond. The guide was created to support the Social Determinants of Health Screening Tool adopted by Better Health of Northeast New York and the Alliance for Better Health, by identifying available services across the region in 8 categories: Housing, Transportation, Utilities, Childcare, Safety, Food, Literacy, and Cost of Care. These categories directly align with the Screening Tool questions, which are used to assess the needs of an individual or family unit to better connect them with the care and services they need.

All are welcome on November 29th for the PHIPAC (Population Health Improvement Program Advisory Committee) meeting on Capital Region Index of Health Disparities. The event will provide a ‘ranking’ of disparities and involve presentations on local engagement strategies developed explicitly for disparate populations. Speakers will include representatives from the Alliance for Better Health, Commission on Economic Opportunity – Troy, and more.

PHIP is always looking to highlight community programs who are engaging in successful prevention initiatives. If you know of a program or person that is worthy of being highlighted for inclusion in a future PHIPAC, please contact Jordyn Wartts at jwartts@hcdiny.org.

The October Munch & Mingle networking and educational event for Community Health Liaisons was about mental health. Peer Support Mentor Sarah Felman from The Empowerment Exchange gave a moving account of her experience hearing voices, while Director of Community Services Jodi Kovach from Mohawk Opportunities shared tips on communicating effectively and respectfully with individuals experiencing mental health symptoms. The next "Munch and Mingle" will be held in December in Troy. The topic will be self-care. Contact Rebecca Starzyk at rstarzyk@hcdiny.org for further details!

For National Prescription Drug Take Back Day in October, HCDI released event-day and year-round take back sites maps for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Greene, and Columbia Counties. Our efforts were featured in the Times Union – click here to see the online version of the article and access the maps.
Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program

DSRIP Year 4
DSRIP Year 4 out of 5 is moving into its third quarter! Specific areas of focus in DSRIP Year 4 include performance, transition to Value Based Payments (VBP), and Planning for the Future. In the spirit of preparing for transition, the Alliance for Better Health and Better Health for Northeast New York teamed up to create a document and list of resources to gauge organizational readiness for VBP. Access the file [here](#). For further information on VBP, check out the New York State Department of Health’s VBP University [here](#).

Alliance for Better Health (Alliance)
Alliance’s Healthy Together Network, a care coordination referral system being used to address social determinants of health, has integrated with neighboring PPS Adirondack Health Institute’s ADK Wellness Connections. “The collaboration between the two networks on the industry-leading Unite Us platform will create a more robust network and reduce barriers for network partners and community members in overlapping geographic areas,” said Adirondack Health Institute’s Jessica Chanese in the ADK Wellness Connections newsletter. Read more [here](#).

Better Health for Northeast New York (BHNNY)
In October, BHNNY expanded BHNNY Cares, their community based care management program, to Albany Medical Center OB/GYN and Pediatric Specialty practices for the Conception to Childhood Initiative. Through this initiative, they will be offering BHNNY Cares support to an at-risk and in need population, as well as helping to identify and address gaps in care. In addition, St. Catherine’s has signed a contract with BHNNY to work to address social determinants of health of Medicaid consumers and uninsured individuals across three counties. Read the press release from St. Catherine’s [here](#).

Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) Innovations in Social Determinants of Health
In September, the New York State Department of Health announced the nine finalists of the Social Determinants of Health 'Call for Innovations' Initiative. The solicitation for innovations, a first of its kind in New York State, attracted over 200 applicants from across the country, all of whom came up with creative and effective ways to address social determinants of health for Medicaid members. The nine finalists, which included Unite Us for its Healthy Together Referral Network, presented their solutions to a group of distinguished panelists and an audience of over 600 people on September 26, 2018 at a Social Determinants of Health Innovation Summit hosted by the Department. Read more [here](#). Also, be sure to check out this Social Determinants of Health Intervention Menu released by NYSDOH providing over 50 value based payment interventions addressing social determinants of health.
HEALTH DISPARITIES REPORT

Health Disparities in the Capital Region

Health disparities are avoidable differences in the rates of disease, injury, or violence experienced by certain populations. Disparate populations can be defined by way of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and geographic location. Across all populations, there are also disparities in access to achieving optimal health. Eliminating health disparities would lead to health equity for all.

Assault-related hospitalization rates were lowest for white non-Hispanics, with Hispanic rates being 0.9 times greater, and black non-Hispanic rates being 5.8 times greater.

Highest SES: 8.8
2.5
1.3
1

Assault-related hospitalization rates for the lowest SES group were 7.8 times greater than the highest SES group.

Asthma emergency department visit rates were 5.8 times greater for black non-Hispanics than white non-Hispanics, and 9.1 times greater for low SES compared to high SES.

Black non-Hispanic: 175.6
Hispanic: 69.3
White non-Hispanic: 25.9

Asthma rates per 10,000 population (2013-15):

High SES: 18.0
Low SES: 182.2

Adolescent pregnancy rates were lowest for white non-Hispanics, with Hispanic rates being 2.5 times greater, and black non-Hispanic rates being 3 times greater.

White non-Hispanic: 10.3
Hispanic: 36.0
Black non-Hispanic: 41.4

Rates per 1,000 females aged 15-17 (2012-14)

Sources:
2. NYS Vital Statistics
3. State Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS)
4. NYS Prevention Agenda Dashboard
Consumer Engagement

As public health and health care professionals, health equity is one of the most honorable goals we can aim to achieve. However, any of us that target disparities in our day-to-day work know that people with the greatest health needs are most likely to be disengaged from services. Best practices to address identified disparities are only as effective as how well we engage the populations we aim to serve.

There are several organizations that embrace consumer engagement as the foundation of all efforts aiming to decrease disparities. Community Places is a not-for-profit social enterprise that specializes in community engagement and planning. The organization’s website hosts several community engagement resources including the Community Planning Toolkit where partners can receive guidance on planning and designing methods of engagement as well as tips to discern which methods are most appropriate for reaching your goals and target populations.

In similar efforts, SPARC bc has also published a Community Engagement Toolkit that offers an adaptable approach to designing a community engagement process to specific issues in your community. The toolkit describes five steps of effective community engagement and provides forty-seven community engagement methods with descriptions, examples, and levels of impact.

Healthcare professionals interested in learning about consumer priorities and desires in healthcare can find multiple resources in HCDI’s Consumer Engagement Research Library. The resources included in this library provide information from consumer interviews, focus groups, and review articles all aiming to understand consumer priorities and how they want to be engaged.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Lincoln Park Master Plan Design Input Community Meeting
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Albany Housing Authority Atrium and Community Room
200 South Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12202

Thursday, November 15, 2018
Albany Strategic Alliance Meeting
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Albany County Department of Health, Basement Auditorium
175 Green Street, Albany NY 12206

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
HCDI Community Health Liaison Task Force (formerly Care Coordination Task Force)
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Healthy Capital District Initiative, 3rd Floor Conference Room
175 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
Columbia Greene Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Columbia County Department of Health
325 Columbia Street, Hudson, NY 12534

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
Saratoga Diabetes Coalition Meeting
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Saratoga Hospital
59D Myrtle Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
Schenectady Trauma Informed Community Work Group
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Ellis McClellan Street Health Center, Conference Center
600 McClellan Street, Schenectady, NY 12304

Thursday, November 29, 2018
Population Health Improvement Program Advisory Committee (PHIPAC)
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Albany County Department of Health
175 Green Street, Albany, NY 12202
Friday, November 30, 2018
HCDI PHAB Accreditation Meeting
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Healthy Capital District Initiative, 5th Floor Conference Room
175 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206

Friday, November 30, 2018
Saratoga County Suicide Coalition Meeting
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saratoga County Veteran’s Agency, Conference Room
2144 Doubleday Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Thursday, December 6, 2018
Saratoga Mental Health & Substance Abuse Coalition Meeting
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Saratoga Hospital
59D Myrtle Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Schenectady Interagency Meeting
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
YWCA of Northeastern NY
44 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
HCDI Behavioral Health Task Force
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Healthy Capital District Initiative, 5th Floor Conference Room
175 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206

Thursday, December 20, 2018
Albany Strategic Alliance Meeting
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Albany County Department of Health, Basement Auditorium
175 Green Street, Albany NY 12206

Thursday, January 3, 2019
Saratoga Mental Health & Substance Abuse Coalition Meeting
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Saratoga Hospital
59D Myrtle Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
Rensselaer County Wellness Committee
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Rensselaer County Department of Health, 2nd Floor Conference Room
1600 7th Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

Thursday, January 17, 2019
Schenectady Coalition for a Health Community Meeting
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ellis McClellan Street Health Center, Auditorium
600 McClellan Street, Schenectady, NY 12304

Tuesday, January 22, 2019
HCDI Community Health Liaison Task Force (formerly Care Coordination Task Force)
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Healthy Capital District Initiative, 3rd Floor Conference Room
175 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206
Professional Development Opportunities

**Harm Reduction 103**
This is the 3rd webinar in the Harm Reduction Series. This session will focus exclusively on answering YOUR questions about how to apply harm reduction principles in your work. Join the webinar with your curiosity and ask questions about what to say and do to meet clients where they are at, stay person-centered, show you prioritize safety over abstinence, and more.

Tuesday, November 20, 2018
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Register at [https://registration.nytacl.org/](https://registration.nytacl.org/)

**Mental Health First Aid**
You are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Mental Health First Aid teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social, or self-help care. Anyone can take the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid course. The adult Mental Health First Aid course is appropriate for anyone who wants to learn how to help an individual who may be experiencing a mental health crisis or concern.

Thursday, November 29, 2018
8:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.
194 Washington Avenue, Suite 415, Albany, NY 12210
Register at [www.mhanys.org](http://www.mhanys.org)
Youth Mental Health First Aid
Youth Mental Health First Aid reviews the unique factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents age 12-18. It emphasizes the importance of early intervention and covers how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. The youth course is intended for anyone 18 years or older to learn how to help young people. This class is $100 which includes catered lunch from Café Lark.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
8:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.
194 Washington Avenue, Suite 415, Albany, NY 12210
Register at www.mhanys.org

safeTALK
safeTALK is a half-day training in suicide alertness. It helps participants recognize a person with thoughts of suicide and connect them with resources who can help them in choosing to live. Participants don’t need any formal preparation to attend the training—anyone age 15 or older who wants to make a difference can learn the safeTALK steps.

Thursday, December 13, 2018
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc.
194 Washington Avenue, Suite 415, Albany, NY 12210
Register at www.mhanys.org

GRANTS

Visualizing Healthy Lives – Urban Institute
This $1 million funding opportunity seeks to support data visualizations that jumpstart conversations about the causes of life expectancy disparities and how communities can address these disparities more effectively. This grant initiative is calling upon data visualization specialists to create powerful and understandable visualizations of the United States Small-Area Life Expectancy Project (USALEEP) data in order to effectively communicate the data to a wider audience and promote a shared vision of better health for all.

Visualizing Healthy Lives welcomes submissions from eligible organizations interested in using USALEEP data to develop visualizations that advance effective calls to action, foster stronger collaborations, and support greater understanding of factors that potentially affect how well and how long we live, such as access to safe and affordable housing, educational opportunities, and health care.

Letters of Interest due by: Friday, November 16, 2018
Powering Healthy Lives-- Urban Institute
To promote health equity and better life outcomes across people, place, and power, this $1 million grant initiative seeks to support community changemakers and leaders to use United States Small-Area Life Expectancy Project (USALEEP) data to advance innovative solutions from across sectors that intersect with health outcomes—such as education, transportation, criminal justice, housing, urban planning and other sectors.

Powering Healthy Lives will fund projects that use the USALEEP dataset with interdisciplinary approaches that seek to address health disparities, narrow the life expectancy gap, and promote health equity and social justice. As such, this grant initiative will support projects that demonstrate strong alignment with at least one of the priority areas of people, place, and power.

**Letters of Interest due by:** Friday, November 16, 2018

NACCHO’s Model Practices Award-- RHI Hub
NACCHO's Model Practice Program honors and recognizes outstanding local health officials and practices from across the nation and shares and promotes these practices among local health departments. By submitting a practice for the award to the Model Practices Database, health departments are helping to build the evidence-base methods of providing public health services. A model practice is an innovative resource, initiative, program, administrative practice, tool, method of communicating the value of governmental public health, or way of doing business that can be evaluated. Model and promising practices can come from all areas of local public health, including, but not limited to, community health, environmental health, emergency preparedness, infrastructure, governmental public health, and chronic disease.

**Deadlines:** Thursday, December 13, 2018

Tobacco Control Program - Component A: Health Systems for a Tobacco-Free NY and Component B: Center for Health Systems Improvement RFA # 18092

**Component A:** Health Systems for a Tobacco-Free New York - Grants Gateway # DOH01- TCPHSA- 2019

**Component B:** Center for Health Systems Improvement - Grants Gateway # DOH01- TCPHSB- 2019

The Bureau of Tobacco Control (BTC) seeks applications from organizations that will work to engage health care systems to improve the delivery of guideline-concordant care for tobacco dependence through systems and policy change at the health care organizational level.
MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Emily Lipton, Public Health Planner

My name is Emily Lipton and I have lived in Albany for the past 6 years. I am originally from Long Island and recently graduated with my Master’s degree in Public Health from SUNY Albany’s School of Public Health. I am particularly interested in substance abuse, mental health, and environmental health. In my past position, I worked as a Project Coordinator for an EPA grant to monitor indoor air quality in NYS public elementary schools. In my free time, I love reading, yoga, hiking, and spending time outdoors with friends and loved ones. I am incredibly excited for this opportunity to be part of the team and look forward to helping to improve health in the capital region!

Olivia Beltrani, Data Analyst Intern

My name is Olivia Beltrani and I am originally from little Pleasant Valley, located in Dutchess County. After earning a degree in Sociology and Italian from Tufts University, outside of Boston, MA, I attended SUNY Albany for a Master’s in Public Health, Epidemiology. If I am not around the office, then I am working clinically as a medical scribe in many of the local health care facilities. Although I do love running, speaking Italian, and living in Troy, I would be more than happy to chat with you all about anything!

Written questions will be accepted until Tuesday, November 20, 2018. To the degree possible, inquiries should cite the RFA section, paragraph and page number to which it refers. All questions should be submitted via email with the subject line “Tobacco Control Program - Health Systems for a Tobacco-Free NY RFA # 18092 Component A or Component B” to tcp@health.ny.gov.

An applicant conference will be held via webinar on, Tuesday, November 20, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Registration is required to attend the webinar. Please register for the conference no later than Tuesday, November 20, at 12:30 p.m. using this link:

https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t5b4e19198201be6bb1a9ff0e37d74fb2

https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t5b4e19198201be6bb1a9ff0e37d74fb2