

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY

NCAHQ Newsletter

October 2021

Message from the President

Finally, fall is in the air! Mornings are crisp, leaves are changing colors and fall decorations are noticeable. I love the feel of crisp air and the loss of humidity!

In healthcare, many of our colleagues are finally starting to see the tail end of the Delta surge but it continues to be stressful on all of us. We never expected to still be dealing with this pandemic 18 months after the onset! But we as healthcare professionals continue to strive for the best healthcare possible for our patients and communities.

Due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic, our Board of Directors have kept the focus on keeping our state organization viable during these unusual times. Even though we have not been able to host our annual conference since 2019, we have strived to provide ongoing educational opportunities to our members. At the same time, we continued to work towards our goal of making membership meaningful to the members, relevant to the times, and attainable, while being transparent as a Board of Directors. Without having a conference, we worked to ensure access to webinars with available CPHQ hours necessary for maintaining CPHQ certifications.

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**Ruth Pierce, RN, MBA, MHA,
CCRN-K, CPHQ
2021-2022 NCAHQ President**



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Benefits of NCAHQ Membership

Joining NCAHQ is a great way to honor your commitment to healthcare quality, stay connected with professional peers and remain actively engaged in your career.

Benefits include the following:

- Statewide educational offerings with opportunities to earn CPHQ credits
- Free NCAHQ Educational Webinars
- Reduced rates at NCAHQ conference
- Professional networking
- Membership e-newsletter
- Membership directory
- Collaboration with NAHQ
- Voting on NCAHQ Board of Directors
- Opportunity to serve on the NCAHQ Board of Directors
- Opportunity to participate on one or more committees

Newsletter Articles

Please send any newsletter ideas or articles to Laurie Beasley at Laurie.beasley@atriumhealth.org.

**Health Care Quality Week
October 17-23, 2021**

**See Gov Cooper's Proclamation on
NCAHQ Home Page**

Member Spotlight

Antoinette Stein RN, MHA

Education Co-Chair

Antoinette is currently a Clinical Quality Program Administrator at Anthem, and is proud to be part of the new Medicaid managed care transition which took place in North Carolina on July 1, 2021. With a large focus on Quality Improvement and Population Health including Social Determinants of Health, she aspires to make a difference and contribute to her communities and the organization.

Antoinette is married and she and her husband have been foster parents since 2012, mom to 5 year old Bichon Frise. She likes to kayak & hike and can frequently be found in the North Carolina mountains/lakes or beaches. Professionally, Antoinette is a long-time member of NCAHQ and has served in various committee and board roles, most recently as Education Committee co-Chair. She is also a member of the Greater Charlotte Healthcare Executives Group (GCHEG) and is currently working with a GCHEG mentor.



Antoinette earned her nursing degree at Adelphi University, Garden City NY while working as a Surgical Technologist. Antoinette began her career in New Port Richey Florida with a Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing colleague as a bedside nurse on a cardiac telemetry unit. Subsequently, she transitioned from bedside to a Home Care Coordinator, and eventually into quality in 2002 with CMS core measures improvement activities. She relocated from New Port Richey Community Hospital, Florida to Novant Health in North Carolina as a Clinical Analyst; eventually transitioning to ambulatory quality improvement as a Patient Centered Practice Coordinator.

Antoinette enjoys collaborating with others and finding solutions to barriers. She feels innovation is the key driver to success. Her mottos are: "don't be afraid to fail, this is the only way to succeed" and "embrace change, we know there will always be change".

President's Message

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The multi state collaborative is continuing to be a strong effort for our members. This collaboration started in August 2020 between Arizona, Oregon, and North Carolinas Health Care Quality Associations in an effort to expand the educational opportunities to our members. Since the inception, the collaborative group continues to meet monthly and in 2021, we have added Georgia, Michigan, and Florida to our group with a total of 6 states. We have 2 additional states that will be joining the collaborative in January 2022, and this will only serve to expand the educational offerings to our members.

One of the other effects from the pandemic has been the delay in NCAHQ Board of Directors elections. Typically, this occurs in the spring but, given this is a voluntary board and the additional work added to many healthcare providers, many of our board agreed to continue in their roles for an additional year. Our plan is to put forth a call for nominations after the first of 2022 with elections again in the spring of 2022. I would like to offer a big thank you to all our board members who have effortlessly dedicated their time to this organization over the past 1-2 years and for many who have taken on additional responsibilities. The list of 2021-2022 Board of Directors and contact emails are listed in this newsletter.

Typically, NCAHQ Town Hall is conducted during the annual conference and as a result of the cancellation of the recent conferences, a virtual Town Hall was held on Friday September 2. This was open to all members and nonmembers who wished to participate. During the meeting, we introduced the board members who were on the call and then discussed a review of the past year within NCAHQ. One of the biggest topics at our Town Hall meetings is an overview of the organization's finances. Our fiscal year is July 1 – June 30 and our CPA conducts our annual audit and files our taxes to ensure we are maintaining the requirements for the state. In an effort to keep members apprised of the happenings within the organization, the Board of Directors agreed to host another virtual Town Hall in 6 months, which will be after the first of the new year and decisions will be put forth and discussed regarding the option for an in person September abbreviated conference.

All of us have been impacted professionally and personally one way or another by this pandemic. But the Board's goal has been to keep NCAHQ as a steady presence during this period of ongoing uncertainty. I hope that you are staying healthy, take time to perform self care and have found a way to stay centered. I am grateful for the collaboration and support among the Board of Directors during the past and current year in my role as NCAHQ President. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Ruth Pierce RN, MBA, MHA, CCRN-K, CPHQ



Member Spotlight

Alyson Covington, BSN, RN, CPHQ, CPPS

My name is Alyson Covington, I have a BSN in nursing from UNC-G and I graduated in 2003 with honors and was invited to join Sigma Theta Tau my senior year in nursing school. I was honored to serve as an intern for the College Bound Sisters (a program that served young women whose sisters had teenage pregnancies) and presented at both the Sigma Theta Tau Research Symposium in Greensboro in 2003 and submitted a paper representing the nursing program's research on preventing teenage pregnancy to the National Institution of Health. My first degree in English and Religious Studies was also from UNC-G with graduation in 1986. Prior to going back to school for my nursing degree my husband and I were in the scuba diving industry. I have worked in Behavioral Health and in College Health for most of my nursing career, much of that has been in quality and safety.



I was honored in 2006 to participate in the Chiron Mentorship program for Sigma Theta Tau. Currently I have been the Safety Officer at NC State University Student Health since 2015 and the Safety, Health Quality and Accreditation Coordinator since 2017. In 2020 I added the role of Infection Control Coordinator to my other duties. In 2017, I obtained my CPHQ and CPPS (Certified Professional in Patient Safety) in 2018. In July of 2021 I achieved certification from the Institution for Safe Medication Practices Medication Safety Certification Program. I have served on NAHQ Item Writing Group and am currently in my second year of serving on the NAHQ Test Development Team. In 2019, I joined NCAHQ and have been a member of the NCAHQ Education Committee since fall of 2020. I have presented at the Southern College Health Associate (SCHA) in 2014 and in 2017 on achieving accreditation using policy management crosswalks. I was also on a luncheon panel on Achieving Accreditation using an Electronic Software Management System at the AAAHC Achieving Accreditation Conference in 2018 in Washington DC. I have attended conferences at New York University on Quality in College Health in 2015 and in 2017. I have also contributed to a chapter on the importance of accreditation in the college health setting for a textbook on College Health that has not yet been published. I have enjoyed working with students at NC State University outside of College Health by serving as a scholarship reviewer and interviewer for the Goodnight Scholarship Program.

NCAHQ 2021-2022 Board Members

President

Ruth Pierce, RN, MBA, MHA, CCRN-K, CPHQ

President Elect and Conference Planner

Laurie Beasley, RN, MSN, NE-BC

Immediate Past President

Tina Schoen, MBA, BSN, RN, NEA-BC, CPHQ

Treasurer and Website Elect

Shellie VonCannon, MSN, RN

Recording and Membership Secretary

Amanda Steeves, MPH, RN, CPHQ

Awards/Recognition Chair

Swati Bhardwaj

Conference Planner Elect

Danielle Kendall, MBA

Website Manager

Deborah Priebe, RN, MSN, CNOR

Nominations/By-Laws Chair

Miki Glass, RN, MSN, NE-BC, CPHQ

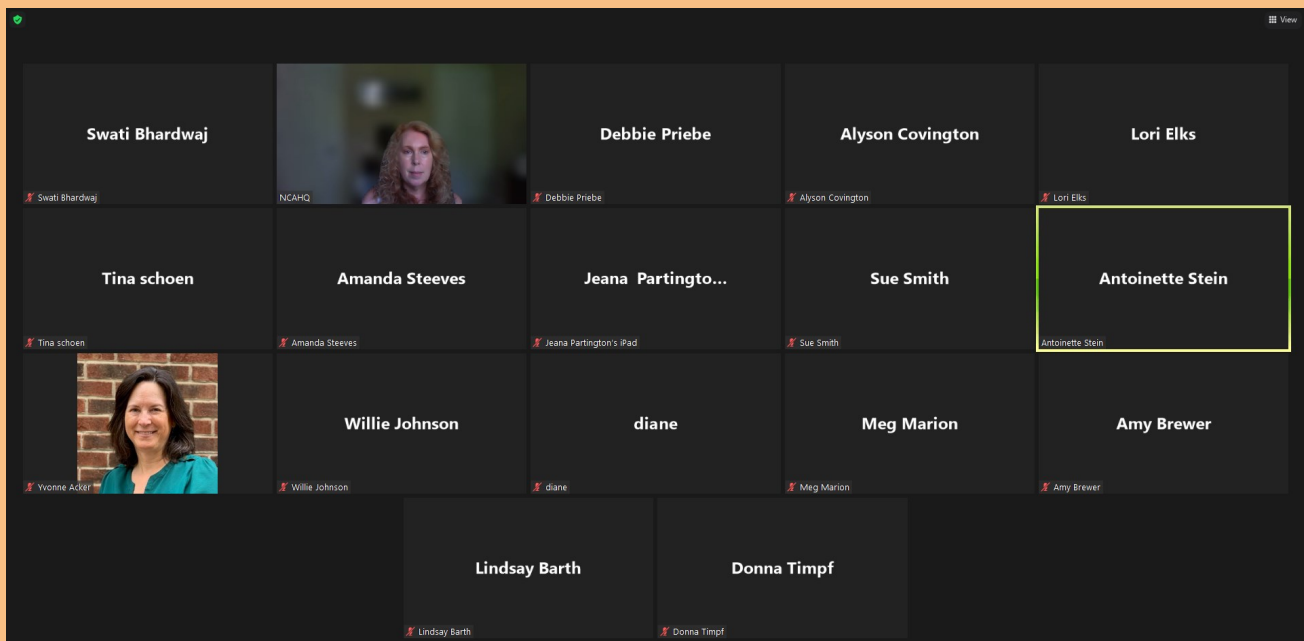
Member-at-Large

Wanda Garland, RN, CPHQ

Education Co-Chairs

Antoinette Stein, RN, MHA

Alyson Flood, RN, BSN, CPHQ



Screen shot of 2021-2022 Town Hall on Friday Sept 3.

Upcoming Board Meetings

All meetings are held by Zoom and are scheduled from 1200 - 1330.

- October 22
- November 9
- December 17

Board meetings are open to any member interested in attending.

Contact Ruth Pierce at rcpierce720@gmail.com for more information.



October 22, 2021 Board of Directors Zoom Call

Connect with us! 

Website: www.ncahq.org

Mission

To promote excellence, professionalism and continuous improvement in healthcare quality.

Vision

To be the recognized leader in healthcare quality in North Carolina.

NCAHQ Educational Offerings

Educational Webinars

Don't Get it Twisted: The Contortion and Corrosion of the PSWP Privilege

- November 12, 12 noon PT, hosted by MAHQ.

Analytics for Healthcare Organizations and Cost Efficiency

- *Speaker—Heather Mann, Director of Analytics at Vizient*
 - November 10, 12 noon ET, hosted by NCAHQ.

SAVE THE DATE:

December 10 webinar— TBA topic, hosted by ArAHQ

Multistate Collaborative Update

Current States in the Collaborative

- North Carolina
 - Arizona
 - Oregon
 - Florida
 - Georgia

Joining in January 2022—Maryland and New England
Requirement of each state to join—offer 4 webinars per year.

