Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the new streamlined format for our newsletter! This format is intended to quickly get useful public health information to you. Our focus this quarter is on asthma in the Capital Region. Check out our [Asthma Equity Report](#) to see where the disproportionate burden of asthma is in the region and each county. Spoiler alert, economic, and racial inequalities persist. Blacks have over 6 times the frequency of emergency care for asthma as Whites and resident in predominantly low socioeconomic income zip codes were another 17% higher.

If you want to be more active with asthma initiatives, click [here](#) for a list with contact information. A growing strategy to address asthma is home-based services. A State assessment on the effectiveness of home-based services is in our [asthma resources](#).

Every public health strategy is only as effective as how well we engage the public we are trying to support. There are short training videos on e-mail marketing and using social media for public health goals in [PHIP updates](#) and upcoming Bridges Out of Poverty training, among others, in [Professional Development](#).

Keep up with [DSRIP](#) and [SHIP](#) activities in the region or check out the [Grants](#) to see if there is funding to advance your project. If you were looking for something else, let us know. We might be able to send it to you directly.

All the Best,

Kevin Jobin-Davis

Executive Director, HCDI
Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP)

On January 10, 2017, HCDI hosted the Population Health Improvement Program Advisory Committee (PHIPAC) meeting which focused on the opioid epidemic in the Capital Region. Speakers included public health professionals such as Elizabeth Whalen, M.D., Commissioner of Health (Albany); Margaret Graham, AFRN-BC, Director of Community Services and Mental Health (Greene); Michael Prezioso, Ph.D., Director of Mental Health (Saratoga); Maryfran Wachunas, Public Health Director (Rensselaer). Each speaker shared his / her county’s efforts, challenges, and successes in the combat against the opioid epidemic in the region.

Craig Hall of Marketing Wiz conducted a Social Media Training after the PHIPAC meeting. You can view the videos on E-mail and Text-Based Messaging for Public Health Departments, and Social Media Training on YouTube. For further information, contact Craig Hall at chall@marketingwiz.co

It’s never too late to join the PHIPAC. We are a broad-based forum where stakeholders can provide recommendations on PHIP activities. Send an e-mail to PHIP@hcdiny.org to be included on the mailing list. Join the next PHIPAC meeting in May 2017.

Visit our Regional Public Health Resource Directory and access an array of evidence-based self-management resources in the region for diabetes, obesity, and asthma.

Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program

NYS Department of Health released two new YouTube Videos!

DSRIP: Looking Ahead 2017
New York State's Medicaid Director, Jason Helgerson, talks about what is ahead for the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program in 2017. Click here to watch.
Myths and Facts of Value-Based Payment (VBP) Reform
New York State’s Medicaid Director, Jason Helgerson, talks about common myths and facts about the Value-Based Payment (VBP) initiative. Click here to watch.

Albany Medical Center PPS announces name change
Better Health for Northeast New York (BHNYY), an affiliate of Albany Medical Center Hospital will soon replace Albany Medical Center Hospital as the NYS DOH DSRIP Lead Entity for our PPS. Click here to receive the organization’s monthly newsletter.

State Health Innovation Plan (SHIP) and State Innovation Model (SIM)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center announces two new innovation models
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) announced two new models, the Shared Decision Making Model (SDM Model) and the Direct Decision Support Model (DDS Model), from the CMS Innovation Center that aim to increase patient engagement in care decisions by putting more information in the hands of Medicare beneficiaries.

New York State authorizes Advanced Home Health Aides
The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) announced a new law that establishes a job category known as Advanced Home Health Aides, home health aides who receive additional training and act under the supervision of a licensed registered professional nurse to carry out advanced tasks. Click here to learn more.

The NYS Department of Health Integrated Care Workgroup Final Report
The NYS Department of Health released its Integrated Care Workgroup final report on December 21, 2016. This report summarizes the work of the Integrated Care Workgroup (ICWG), charged with designing a statewide model for primary care referred to as Advanced Primary Care (APC). Click here to review the final report.

Empire State Trail Initiative
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo proposed completing the Hudson River Valley Greenway and Erie Canalway Trails by 2020 to create the Empire State Trail, the largest state multi-use trail in the nation. The state will develop 350 miles of new trail in three phases to create a 750-mile pathway for hiking and biking along scenic vistas and through charming, historic communities. Click here to learn more.
Asthma in the Capital Region

Asthma affects approximately 85,000 Capital Region Adults
This amounts to more than 1 in 10 adults

With well-managed care, emergencies due to asthma are mostly preventable. The following groups are disproportionately impacted by asthma “attacks”:

- Males, before the age of 18
- Females, after the age of 18
- Those residing in lower socioeconomic status zip-codes
- Those residing in more urban Capital Region neighborhoods

For more information, check out our Asthma Equity Report
www.hcdiny.org
Read all about it! The New York State Department of Health’s press release last week featuring the impacts of the Healthy Neighborhood Program. The program targets high-risk areas and provides in-home assessments and interventions for environmental asthma triggers. Residents are reached based on referral and door-to-door canvassing. Three studies were recently released showing that the program is helping to improve health outcomes for individuals affected by asthma while lowering treatment costs and improving their home environments. Key findings from the studies were:

- In homes that were visited 3-6 months after initial visit, there was a significant reduction in the number of hazards known to trigger asthma per home (Reddy et al., 2017)
- Participants who received the Healthy Neighborhoods Program intervention demonstrated better asthma self-management, which was exhibited by fewer instances of asthma attacks, fewer days of school missed, and fewer days of work missed by a caregiver (Reddy et al., 2017)
- Costs related to healthcare utilization were greatly reduced in participants who received intervention from the Healthy Neighborhoods Program (Gomez et al., 2017)

Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia, and Schenectady counties have Healthy Neighborhood Programs.

Click here for a list of regional asthma work groups and their contacts.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Schenectady Coalition for a Healthy Community Meeting
*May 4, 2017, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.*
Ellis McClellan Street Health Center Auditorium, Schenectady, NY

Schenectady Coalition for a Healthy Community Diabetes/Obesity Work Group Meeting
*April 6, 2017, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
Bonavita Room at Ellis McClellan Campus, Schenectady, NY

Saratoga County Mental Health Substance Use Disorders Meeting
*March 2, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.*
Saratoga Hospital, 59D Myrtle Street, 2nd floor, Saratoga, NY
Meetings occur the first Thursday of every month

Saratoga County Prediabetes Coalition Meeting
*February 28, 2017, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.*
Saratoga Hospital, 59D Myrtle Street, 2nd floor, Saratoga, NY
Meetings occur the fourth Tuesday of every month

Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health Meeting
175 Green Street Albany, NY 12202
Coalition meets every third Thursday of every month *(Feb.16, Mar. 16, Apr.20)*
8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Rensselaer Wellness Committee Meeting
Rensselaer County Public Health, 2nd Floor Conference Room A
1600 7th Avenue, Troy
Committee meets the first Monday of every month *(Feb. 6, Mar. 6, Apr. 3)*
10:00 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

Albany-Rensselaer Behavioral Health Task Force
Healthy Capital District Initiative, 5th Floor Conference Room
175 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206
Wednesday February 8, 2017, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Care Coordination Task Force Meeting
Healthy Capital District Initiative, 5th Floor Conference Room
175 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206
Committee meets every fourth Friday of every month *(Feb. 24, Mar. 24, Apr. 28)*
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Rensselaer Heroin Coalition
The Commission on Economic Opportunity, (CEO) JLB Community Resource Center
2328 Fifth Avenue, Troy, NY 12180
Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Out of the Woods a Workshop for Women in Recovery
250 Winding Brook Drive Guilderland, NY 12084
(518) 456-3634
Saturday, February 25, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Cost- $60
Join author/teacher Diane Cameron for a workshop for women in recovery. The women-only workshop is open to women from every recovery program.

Recognizing Impaired Persons
Capital Region BOCES Educational Support Services
900 Watervliet-Shaker Road Suite 102, Schenectady Room, Albany, NY 12205
Friday, March 3, 2017
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
This four-hour course provides attendees with the basic knowledge and skills needed to identify, document, and communicate their observations of persons who appear to be impaired. Click here to register.

Albany-Rensselaer Diabetes Task Force Meeting
Healthy Capital District Initiative, 5th Floor Conference Room
175 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206
Wednesday March 15, 2017, 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Columbia-Greene Controlled Substance Awareness Taskforce- Prevention Workgroup
Twin County Recovery Services
428 W. Main Street Catskill, NY 12414
Wednesday February 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Albany Medical Center Hospital PPS Consumer and Community Affairs Meeting
Twin County Recovery Services
350 Power Ave. Hudson, NY
Tuesday February 21, 2017, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Albany Medical Center Hospital PPS 2.d.i Work Group
1275 Broadway, Menands, NY E504 Conference Room
Thursday February 23, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
2017 Recovery Advocacy Day  
Empire State Plaza Concourse-Convention Hall, Albany, NY  
February 28, 2017, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

2017 Federally Qualified Health Center Advocacy Day  
Empire State Convention Center, Meeting Rooms 2, 3 & 4  
Empire State Plaza, Albany  
Registration: 9:30 a.m.  
Welcome Program: 10:30 a.m. - Noon  
Click Here for agenda and registration.

Columbia-Greene Breastfeeding Coalition  
Columbia Memorial Health Administrative Building  
Thursday, March 9, 2017, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Columbia-Greene Controlled Substance Awareness Taskforce- Prevention Work Group  
Twin County Recovery Services  
350 Power Ave. Hudson, NY  
Wednesday March 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Columbia-Greene Controlled Substance Awareness Taskforce  
159 Jefferson Heights, Catskill NY 12414  
Tuesday March 21, 2017, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Greene County MAPP Meeting  
411 Main Street, Catskill NY 12414  
Friday March 24, 2017, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Columbia-Greene Chronic Disease Coalition  
325 Columbia Street, Hudson NY  
Monday April 3, 2017, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Columbia County Public Health Leadership Committee  
325 Columbia Street, Hudson NY  
Monday April 3, 2017, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

SafeTALK  
Laura Marx, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
April 6, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Saratoga Springs Library, Susman Room  
For more information call Amanda Duff at 518-584-7460 ext. 8303
Resources

Multiple Services Navigator
Access helpful health, education, human service, and disability information on one user-friendly website built for youth, parents, family members, and caregivers who rely on supports from multiple child and family serving systems. Click here for more information.

Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) launches new website
The Bureau of Health Workforce recently unveiled its new website in an effort to deliver consistent, streamlined, and targeted content to site visitors.

Visit the new site to learn how BHW serves underserved communities.

New York State Public Health Association (NYSPHA)
65th Annual Meeting & Conference
Improving Public Health: Advocating & Activating for Change
April 27-28, 2017
High Peaks Resort, Lake Placid, NY
Click here for more information

Professional Development Opportunities

The Money Follows the Person Program: Facilitating Return to Community-based Settings
Public Health Live
Free, live webcast on Thursday, February 16, 2017
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. ET
Click here for more information

Patient Assistance Resources: Reducing Your Healthcare Costs With NeedyMeds
NeedyMeds, Webinar
Thursday, Feb 16, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EST
Click here for more information

The PAN Foundation: Connecting Underinsured Patients with the Treatment They Need
NeedyMeds, Webinar
Wednesday, Feb 22, 2017, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST
Click [here](#) for more information

**Saratoga “Bridges Out of Poverty.”**
Sharon Feeley, Prevention Council
March 22, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Saratoga Springs Library, Dutcher Community Room
RSVP to Amanda Duff at 518-584-7460 ext. 8303 by February 22, 2017.

**Schenectady Bridges “Bridges Out of Poverty.”**
Schenectady County Public Library McChesney Room
Thursday, March 16 & Friday, March 17, 2017
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Click [here](#) for more information

**Project Safe Point**
Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Training Schedule
Learn the signs and symptoms of Heroin and Opioid overdose
Learn how to use Intramuscular Naloxone to respond to an overdose
For registration, contact Kate Gruhle, Project Safe Point Program Coordinator: [kateg@ccalbany.org](mailto:kateg@ccalbany.org) or 518-449-3581 ext. 116

**The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
**Leadership Development Programs**
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s leadership programs are designed to extend the influence and impact of leaders working to build a Culture of Health. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Orange County Department of Health**
Health Equity Conference
SUNY Orange Rowley Center for Science and Engineering, Middletown Campus
March 8, 2017, 9:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
**Speakers:** Ruben Estrada, Director of Health Equity
**Key note:** John Kirksey, retired President of the National Multicultural Institute in Washington, DC. former Practice Leader for Diversity at Towers Perrin and PricewaterhouseCoopers, former Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer of Marsh McLennan Companies and AXA Equitable.
**Panelists:**
Linda Muller, Cornerstone Family Healthcare
Johnathan Schiller, Orange Regional Medical Center
Joel Mittleman, Ezras Cholim Health Center, Inc.
Harrison Moss, NYS DOH Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities Prevention
Michael Gawronski, SUNY Orange Health Professions Division
RSVP by Monday, February 27 to cschaumburg@orangecounty.gov.com. For further information and registration call Orange County Department of Health at (845) 360-6603.

**GRANTS**

**Cardinal Health Foundation Generation Rx**

Generation Rx has focused on educating people of all ages about prescription drug misuse prevention. Generation Rx is soliciting proposals from community and other organizations across the country to increase awareness and encourage action. The application deadline is on February 27, 2017. Click [here](#) to learn more.

**Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

The HHS Office on Women’s Health invites you to apply for the Prevention of Opioid Misuse in Women: Office on Women’s Health Prevention Awards. The application deadline is on April 7, 2017. Click [here](#) to learn more.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

The NIH has announced a new opportunity for organizations interested in helping engage volunteers in the All of Us Research Program, part of the Precision Medicine Initiative. This funding opportunity, open to national and regional organizations, as well as local community groups, will support activities to promote enrollment and retention in the All of Us Research Program across diverse communities. The application deadline is on March 24, 2017 (5:00 pm local time). Click [here](#) to learn more.
NEW TO THE TEAM

Public Health Planner

Larry Schoen

Larry Schoen is a Public Health Planner working with Saratoga and Schenectady counties. Larry recently retired from the New York State Health Department where he managed the Vital Statistics program. He has earned a Master of Business Administration at the University at Albany. Through his experience with the State Health Department, Larry saw firsthand the importance of public health in improving the lives of state and local residents. He looks forward to approaching public health from a different perspective and working with local programs and communities to better the health of their populations. In his spare time, Larry loves to spend time with and spoil his four young grandchildren.

Intern

Verna Solomon

Verna Solomon is a Public Health Intern working with Healthy Capital District Initiative to improve access to population health programs. Verna graduated from Stony Brook University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and a minor in Biology. She is currently pursuing her Master in Public Health with a focus on Social Behavior and Community Health at the University at Albany School of Public Health. Verna, a native of the Philippines, is passionate about causes serving vulnerable and overlooked populations. Her time in the Philippines gave her a glimpse of the challenges that a lack of resources has on the community; this propelled her to join the public health field to serve those who have limited means. Her experiences as a Volunteer and Operations Coordinator at Camp Kesem Stony Brook, and an Asthma Graduate Student Assistant at the NYSDOH Bureau of Community Chronic Disease Prevention have allowed her to learn how programs and resources are developed and managed to cater to the ever-changing needs of the priority population. She hopes to utilize the skills she learned and applied in these programs to encourage health consumers to take control of their health, specifically chronic diseases. Verna enjoys the outdoors, seeing historically-rich places, and testing new recipes.