

Partnering to improve health for all.

Foundation for Healthy Communities

June 2022

Executive Director's Message

We hope that the start of summer provides you the opportunity to relax and renew in the months ahead. We know that workforce shortages and other external factors have made working in health care more demanding on the professionals who serve the sector. At the same time, your service to others is deeply meaningful and improves the lives of patients and families every day.

Whether you serve patients directly or support the services that drive health improvement for populations, your impact is seen and felt. Enjoy the holiday weekend and the summer days ahead!

Yours in health,

Peter



Peter Ames, MPH
Executive Director

Foundation for Healthy Communities Releases 2021 Annual Report *Highlights COVID-19 Response & Recovery Efforts*

The Foundation for Healthy Communities recently released its 2021 Annual Report highlighting the challenges faced in supporting the response and recovery efforts of hospitals, partners and the state of New Hampshire to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 was a full year of COVID-19 response, with several waves that swung us between optimism and concern. The programs at the Foundation for Healthy Communities continued to adapt throughout the year to the changing needs of our partners and constituents, all while listening for where we may best be able to serve in the future.

The responsive nature of the organization allowed us to bring on new grant opportunities and programs this year, several of which developed very rapidly in response to the acute situations caused by the pandemic. The nimbleness of the Foundation, and the responsiveness of the staff team, continued to advance our mission in new ways as we work to build healthier communities for all, now and in the future.



Foundation Launches COVID-19 Vaccination Project

The Foundation for Healthy Communities recently received a three-year grant from the NH Department of Health & Human Services to increase infrastructure and capacity for New Hampshire hospitals, to administer and reduce access barriers to COVID-19 vaccinations.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Project will address the critical need to increase COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to prevent severe illness and hospitalizations throughout the State. In addition, the Foundation will oversee the expansion of data system infrastructure with New Hampshire hospitals to expand and implement the Immunization Information Systems (NHIS), including successful developing pathways for HL7 messaging.

Chris Symolon, the Foundation's Director of the COVID-19 Vaccination Project, will lead efforts with participating New Hampshire's hospitals providing support to develop and implement engagement strategies that promote COVID-19 vaccinations and increase vaccine confidence through education and outreach. To learn more, contact Chris Symolon via email at csymolon@healthynh.org.

Eastern US Quality Improvement Collaborative Launches Pilot Programs

The Eastern US Quality Improvement Collaborative (EQIC), in which the Foundation participates, recently launched a Rapid-Cycle Improvement Program (RCIP) which provides in-depth technical assistance and support for hospitals identified as having the greatest opportunity for improvement with CLABSI. The RCIP is a Targeted Assessment and Prevention program offered in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that includes a comprehensive initial assessment, tools and resources tailored to each specific hospital and Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles to improve the hospital's CLABSI outcomes.

This improvement program will target at least two hospital units for rapid-cycle improvement. The RCIP began in May 2022 with Cheshire Medical Center and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center being selected to participate in the program. The RCIP will enable the hospitals to:

- understand how to analyze CLABSI data from the CDC's NHSN portal;
- work with EQIC and CDC staff to deploy a custom-designed facility assessment to identify hospital-specific CLABSI areas for improvement;
- attend pre- and post-facility assessment webinars with EQIC and CDC staff; and
- develop an action plan, in coordination with EQIC and CDC staff, to implement tools and resources to improve CLABSI outcomes.

For more information on the Eastern US Quality Improvement Collaborative (EQIC) or the Rapid-Cycle Improvement Program please contact [**Luellyn Valtin**](#), Senior Director of Rural Quality Improvement at the Foundation.



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