

Partnering to improve health for all.

Foundation for Healthy Communities

February 2023

Executive Director's Message

Health care is a people business, and the caregivers working in the field are there to support the needs of patients every day. However, those days have become routinely more challenging with fewer staff, higher demand, and an ongoing pandemic that continues to evolve and bring new challenges.

Supporting the people of the health care workforce is imperative to ensure staff have the capacity to address the acute needs of the public, while also maintaining an ability to address more chronic issues. This month, the Foundation has taken on the role as the backbone entity of HealthForce NH, a multistakeholder initiative led by the Endowment for Health, which is dedicated to supporting the entire health care workforce. HealthForce NH will seek to grow, retain, and sustain the health care workforce for today and the future and we are thrilled to be the new home for this project.

Yours in Health,

Peter



Peter Ames, MPH
Executive Director

Foundation for Healthy Communities Offering Health Insurance Assistance

The Foundation for Healthy Communities continues to work with hospitals around the state and offer free health insurance navigation services to New Hampshire residents who need to go through the Medicaid redetermination process in light of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ending on May 11th.

The Foundation was awarded with a grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to assist consumers navigating, shopping for, and enrolling in health insurance coverage for plan year 2023 through a Health Insurance Navigator. The Foundation's Navigator, Adrian Jasion, is available to individuals statewide to provide assistance to consumers in a number of different ways, including identifying the health insurance options available to them through the Marketplace free of charge.

If you or someone you know need health insurance, or if you



know of someone going through the Medicaid redetermination process, call Adrian Jasion, FHC Health Insurance Navigator, at (603) 415-4256 or email her at ajasion@healthynh.org to find out what insurance options are available today.

If you or someone you know received a yellow letter from Medicaid, that means you need to go through the redetermination process - call us today and please feel free to share this with your partners and networks!

Foundation for Healthy Communities to Lead HealthForce NH

Will lead the implementation of Giving Care: A Strategic Plan to Expand and Support New Hampshire's Health Care Workforce

Greetings Healthcare Workforce Champions! We are excited to share with you that the Foundation for Healthy Communities has been identified as the permanent organizational home for HealthForce NH, established by the Forward Fund under the Endowment for Health.

HealthForce NH will lead the implementation of the ***Giving Care: A Strategic Plan to Expand and Support New Hampshire's Health Care Workforce*** and serve as a statewide leader on health care workforce issues. HealthForce NH aims to lead a collaborative effort to create a substantial, equitable, skilled and fulfilled healthcare workforce, ultimately creating a healthier New Hampshire overall.

Healthcare is the fastest growing employment sector, projected to **add almost 10,000 jobs to the economy by 2030**. However, New Hampshire's healthcare workforce is not poised to grow enough to fill these jobs, with **employers already contracting short-term workers to fill the current need**. HealthForce NH is mobilized to take action now and partner to ensure that NH is prepared to fill the growing needs of its population by growing, retaining, and sustaining its healthcare workforce.



Do you know someone passionate about supporting the health care workforce? We're looking for someone to help us lead the HealthForce NH initiative - learn more and share today!

A Community Effort to Covid-19 Vaccinations

*Guest Blog by Chris Symolon, Director, COVID-19 Vaccination Project
Foundation for Healthy Communities*

I have been reflecting on the past two and a half years of the COVID-19 Pandemic. How quickly we forget where we were and how far we have come. We no longer maintain six feet of social distancing, or consistently wear our masks. Do you remember waiting in line to enter the grocery store, being directed which way to enter and exit the aisles, and the never-ending quest for toilet paper? Yes, we have come a long way, but there is so much more we can do.

In New Hampshire, we have lost nearly 3,000 community members so far. We have become numb to the numbers and forget that each person who died is someone's beloved family member, a friend, a co-worker, an acquaintance, a neighbor.

Many people in our communities are still reluctant to get vaccinated and we need to take a

community approach to improve vaccination rates. The Foundation for Healthy Communities is supporting New Hampshire Hospitals in developing and implementing engagement strategies that promote COVID-19 vaccinations. These strategies have changed frequently as vaccines have been approved and the variants have changed. One strategy that has remained is the community approach to increase vaccine confidence through education and outreach.

We need to dispel the myths and the misinformation around vaccine safety and efficacy. We need to show empathy, compassion, and support for those who are hesitant and learn why. We need to remember and mourn those we have lost during the pandemic.

A resolution we all should consider is to get vaccinated and encourage our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to do the same! Covid-19 is not going away and, just like the flu, we will continue to have new variants to deal with every year. I hope by the fall of 2023 we have a yearly vaccine for COVID-19 and that it becomes a standard vaccination offered at our physicians' offices.

Contact me to learn more about the COVID-19 Vaccine Project

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