

## Highlights

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## Announcements

[April Medicaid Bulletin](#)

### Dr. Greg Adams: Answering The Call To Serve



*Dr. Greg Adams, left, is shown with a medical team in Liberia*

Dr. Greg Adams, a CCPN pediatrician in Boone and member of the CCPN Board of Managers, started medical school planning to become a cardiologist.

When he began his pediatrics rotation in medical school he realized his true calling was to serve children. A few years after completing medical school and residency he followed his heart to the mountains of North Carolina.

In addition to serving the people of North Carolina Dr. Adams also works to improve the lives of others as he travels annually to medically underserved parts of world.

He desires to go to the areas where the need is the greatest. His most recent trip

was to East Africa earlier this year. In addition to treating patients Dr. Adams has discovered a true passion for teaching medical providers in other countries and was able to do this while in Africa. He hopes to travel to the Middle East next year.

Back in North Carolina Dr. Adams believes it is critical for independent primary care physicians to continue to deliver quality care to the people of North Carolina. He sees his work on behalf of CCPN as a way to ensure that independent primary care physicians can continue to act as true patient advocates in the changing healthcare environment.

Dr. Adams has practiced medicine for 32 years and has no intention of quitting while still being called to serve patients in North Carolina and across the world.

## Message from the CEO

As I look to the future of CCPN and how independent physicians can thrive as we move towards value based care, I have determined one thing that must happen: quality data must successfully be collected, analyzed, and shared so patient care can improve.

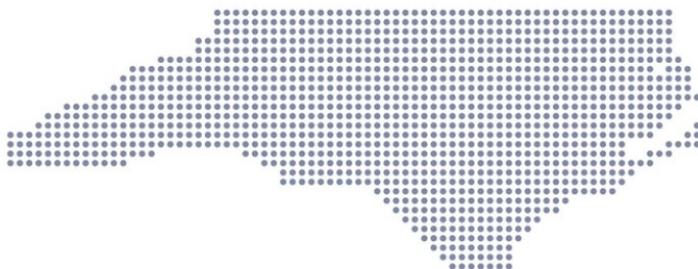
Data collection is the first step in this process and it is crucial. As a clinically integrated network, we must be able to demonstrate our ability to collect clinical quality data from every CCPN practice.

There are many challenges to making this happen, but it must happen nonetheless. Work is already underway evaluating potential partners to assist in this data collection. After this is done we will begin the process of working with each one of our practices to collect quality data.

We will need your support to make this happen. I will keep you updated as we move forward. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact me at [swegner@ncaccesscare.org](mailto:swegner@ncaccesscare.org).



*Steve Wegner, MD*



G R E E N S B O R O 2 0 1 8

2ND ANNUAL CLINICIAN CONFERENCE

GRANDOVER RESORT - APRIL 29-30

The 2nd Annual CCPN Clinician Conference is just a few weeks away!

Please join us April 29 - 30 in Greensboro at the Grandover Resort for this exciting conference, which will include speakers such as Patrick Conway, MD, President and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC and Dave Richard, Deputy Director, NC Division of Medical Assistance.

A draft agenda is available by click-

ing [here](#). If you have not registered you can do so by clicking [here](#).

As a CCPN clinician there there is no cost to register.

Registration includes one-night hotel stay at the Grandover Resort, an evening reception, dinner, and breakfast.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

## Board of Managers

*Greg Adams, M.D.,  
Boone, NC*

*Debbie Ainsworth,  
M.D.,  
Washington, NC*

*Terry Daniel, M.D.,  
Vice Chairman  
Eden, NC*

*Allen Dobson, M.D.,  
Chairman  
Mt. Pleasant, NC*

*Beverly Edwards,  
M.D.,  
Ahoskie, NC*

*Stephen S. Hsieh,  
M.D., Lexington, NC*

*Larry D. Mann, M.D.,  
Raleigh, NC*

*Ted Nifong, M.D.,  
Winston-Salem, NC*

*Rueben Rivers, M.D.,  
Fayetteville, NC*

## CCNC Chief Medical Officer to Present at Clinician Conference

### **Important NC Tracks**

**Regional Seminars are back! NCTracks Regional Seminars are a great opportunity for new providers and existing providers with new staff who use NCTracks—or anyone who needs refresher training. This in-person training is provided local to you and allows you to meet our Regional Provider Relations Representatives.**

**For locations and dates [click here](#)**

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**Upcoming changes will impact provider re-credentialing and re-verification time lines and requirements. Please review this important information [here](#)**

Michelle Bucknor, MD, MBA, joined CCNC in November 2017 as Chief Medical Officer.



*Michelle Bucknor, MD, MBA*

Dr. Bucknor received her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, completed her pediatric residency at the University of Maryland Hospital System, and earned her MBA in Healthcare Administration from Avila University. She has over 20 years of experience in pediatric primary care in underserved populations. She has a strong interest in working with organizations to improve healthcare quality outcomes while partnering with community efforts to reduce health disparities by addressing social determinants of health.

As an Associate Medical Director at Children's Mercy Pediatric Care Network in Kansas City, she was responsible for development and expansion of a Medicaid value based incentive program and for creation of a Patient Centered Medical Home Practice Facilita-

tion program to support independent, community based provider practices.

Prior to joining CCNC she served as Chief Medical Officer for a Federally Qualified Health Center, Advance Community Health, located in Wake and Franklin Counties. Since joining CCNC she has been focused on quality improvement by providing leadership for CCNC Clinical Programs, Quality Management and the CMS Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative grant funded program. She also currently serves as the Medical Director of Community Care of Wake and Johnston Counties.

Dr. Bucknor will be a presenter at the Second Annual CCPN Clinician Conference at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro April 29-30. She will be speaking on clinical practice transformation in preparation for value based care payment models. We hope you can join us for this exciting presentation.

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## Provider-led



## Patient-focused

## Practice Transformation at Albemarle Regional Health Services Yields Impressive Results



*From left, Katie Furches, nurse practitioner; Gayle Olson, pediatric asthma care manager; Elinor Williams, clinic manager; Meredith Umphlett, CCPEC nurse care manager; Amy Rosenberger, Pasquotank County nursing supervisor; Sandra Jennings, clinical nursing supervisor; and Stephanie Reppy, certified medical assistant .*

Current data shows Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) Pediatric Primary Care Clinic is improving health outcomes for its asthma patients while reducing unnecessary, costly services.

Since beginning to participate in CCNC's Practice Transformation Network (PTN) in July 2016, through CCNC partner Community Care Plan of Eastern Carolina (CCPEC), the ARHS clinic's asthma-medication-adherence rate has increased by more than 23%, while asthma-related ED visits have decreased by 20.3%.

More patients are receiving standard-of-care asthma medications, and are filling their asthma prescriptions on a regular basis.

Serving more than 1,100 children and adolescents, the ARHS clinic is staffed by a nurse practitioner and a dedicated care team. As part of its practice-transformation process, the ARHS pediatric clinic has adopted a data-driven, population-management approach supported by a community-based Pediatric Asthma Coalition, and nurse care management for high-risk asthma patients.

ARHS is a seven-county public-health district in northeastern N.C. with a Pediatric Primary Care Clinic in its Elizabeth City location. In addition to PTN participation, ARHS also participates in the Community Care Physician's Network (CCPN).

## Practice Transformation Assistance Is Available

*Did you know that by the end of 2018, 50% of Medicare payments will be tied to a value-based reimbursement model, 90% of Medicare payments will be linked to quality improvement, and that in 2019 Medicaid Reform is scheduled to be implemented in NC?*

*Do you need practice transformation support to help prepare for value-based payment and Medicaid reform? If so please contact Andy Smitley at [asmitley@n3cn.org](mailto:asmitley@n3cn.org) or 919-745-2357.*

*Practices that qualify can receive assistance such as an on-site transformation coach, innovative tools to help your practice save money, assistance in qualifying for CMS incentive payments, and expertise in better understanding your data and getting more from your EHR. To qualify, you must have a functioning EHR, not be part of an ACO, and not already be part of the CCNC-PTN program.*

## **Aetna Agreement Provides Options**

*In January, Aetna and Community Care of North Carolina, Inc. (CCNC) announced a new agreement to combine Aetna's expertise in Medicaid managed health care services with CCNC's medical home and care management services, Community Care Physician Network, LLC (CCPN), and Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Network (CPESN) USA.*

*In this value-based agreement, CCNC will perform care management and coordination services and CCPN member physicians will be "in-network" for Aetna's Medicaid members and eligible to treat all these patients.*

*As a reminder, practices will be able to "opt out" of any Aetna products offered in the future.*

## **Integrated Care Delivers Behavioral Healthcare to Patients**

CCPN is known as a clinically integrated network of independent clinicians across North Carolina. What many people may not know is that behavioral health clinicians are part of this network.

Starting this month we will include a monthly update on the recruitment and activities of the CCPN Behavioral Health Clinicians and their work to provide value-based whole-person care to all North Carolinians.

Currently, CCPN has over 100 psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and PhD-psychologists across the state. CCPN continues to recruit behavioral health practices statewide, and we are now identifying natural regional partners for Behavioral Health Providers and Primary Care Providers to work closely together in support of patients and practices in delivering whole-person care. Dr. Mike Lancaster is leading this effort. Dr. Lancaster held his most recent information and recruitment session in Asheville in March.

Through these collaborative regional relationships we will support practic-



*Dr. Mike Lancaster*

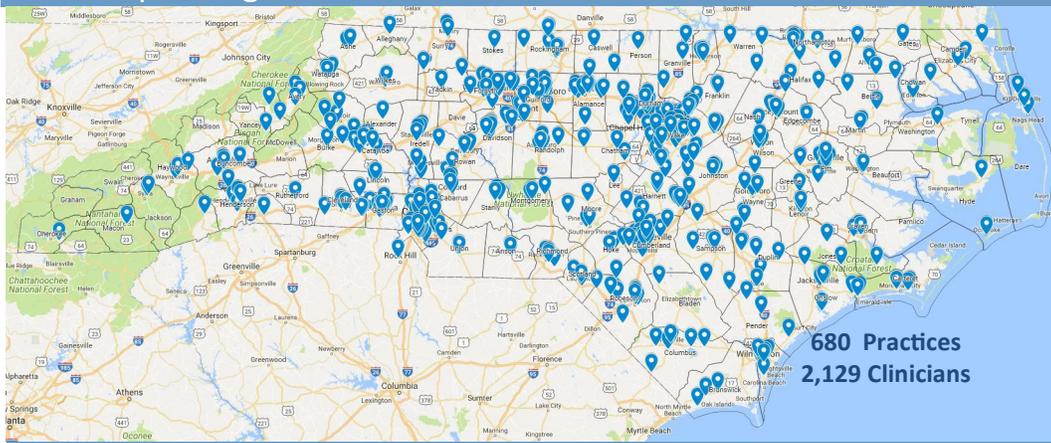
es in laying the foundation for evidence-based models of integrated care. Specifically, CCPN will provide education, resources, and technical assistance to lay the foundation, and eventually implement value-based models of integrated care.

Please join us at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Clinician

CCPN Conference at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro, NC on April 29-30. Dr. Lancaster, Dr. Jennie Byrne, and Andrew Clendenin will give a joint presentation, Whole-Person Care, which will cover laying the foundation for evidence-based models of integrated, whole-person care, preparing for Value Based Payment models, primary care-behavioral health partnerships, and specific assistance which is available through CCPN to accomplish these goals.

*If you would like to be a part of this new venture and a part of the discussion as we move to provide more effective healthcare for North Carolina, please contact Dr. Mike Lancaster at [mlanc2792@aol.com](mailto:mlanc2792@aol.com) or Andrew Clendenin at [aclendenin@n3cn.org](http://aclendenin@n3cn.org).*

## CCPN: Spanning North Carolina



## Welcome New Practices

- Americare Anson Medical Center
- Americare at the Park
- Americare Plaza Medical Center
- Americare Sugar Creek
- Brian Weckel MD Family Medicine
- Clayton Pediatric Center
- Durant Road Pediatrics
- Grove Park Pediatrics
- Internal Medicine of Wakefield, PA
- JCMC Wilmington
- Richmond County Community Care Clinic /Richmond County Health Department

[Click for a full list of CCNP practices](#)

## Tell Us What's Changed

Have clinicians joined or left your group?

Have you recently changed addresses, phone numbers, or tax identification numbers?

Please let us know!

Contact:  
Jon York at  
[jjork@n3cn.org](mailto:jjork@n3cn.org)

## NC HealthConnex Connection Required by June 1, 2018

Per [Session Law \(S.L.\) 2015-241](#), as amended by [S.L. 2017-57](#), North Carolina providers reimbursed by the state for providing health care services under N.C. Medicaid and N.C. Health Choice programs must join NC HealthConnex, the state-designated Health Information Exchange.

As of June 1, 2018, hospitals, mid-level physicians and nurse practitioners who currently have an electronic health record system are to be connected to NC HealthConnex to continue to receive payments for N.C. Medicaid and Health

Choice services. By June 1, 2019, all other Medicaid and state-funded providers must be connected, including the State Health Plan, Program for All Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) and state grants.

NC HealthConnex to Present at NC HIMSS on May 3. For more information [click here](#).

The NC Health Information Exchange Authority (HIEA), the N.C. Department of Information Technology agency that manages NC HealthConnex, will host "How to Connect" webinars on the last Monday of each month at noon to educate providers affected by this law, describe the technical and onboarding requirements, and answer questions about the legal [Participation Agreement](#) that governs the data connection. In the meantime, providers can learn more at [nhealthconnex.gov/how-connect](http://nhealthconnex.gov/how-connect). Providers with questions can contact the NC HIEA staff at 919-754-6912 or [hiea@nc.gov](mailto:hiea@nc.gov).

Author: Provider Services, DMA, 919-855-4050

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