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DHHS Secretary Cohen Keynotes Clinician Conference



Dr. Mandy Cohen

NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH, served as the Clinician Conference’s Keynote Speaker and brought her experience on the national and state level to the group. Dr. Cohen reflected on the potential devastating impact the implementation of block grants could have in North Carolina. We would be the state hit second hardest by the proposed changes to the Affordable Care Act. In terms of NC Medicaid reform, Dr. Cohen emphasized that she does not want to change what is working with NC Medicaid, including the fact that most hospitals and physicians take Medicaid. Her focus is on improving mental health and re-integrating it with physical health and improving health for all North Carolinians as the health care system moves toward alternate payment models. Dr. Cohen ended her talk by answering questions from the attendees and encouraging physicians to let their elected officials know their priorities.

Inaugural Clinician Conference Creates Momentum

From Allen Dobson, MD, Chairman

Thank you to everyone who attended the Inaugural CCPN Clinician Conference. All the feedback I have received indicates everyone felt it was a great success! We heard from national and state leaders about the importance of independent physicians, some different things to consider in value-based care, and challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



CCPN staff also provided outstanding updates on what CCPN has been doing for you and the plans for the future to make this organization even stronger and better able to serve our physicians. I am most pleased, however, by the discussions and interactions among those at the meeting.

We wanted the conference to be a time of sharing ideas, networking with your colleagues and meeting your CCPN clinical leaders (Board of Managers). We definitely accomplished that. The content in this newsletter focuses on what was covered at the conference.

Please read it and share it with others who may benefit from this information. I look forward to using what I learned from all of you at the conference as we move ahead and I hope you feel the same.

Resource Corner

- [June Medicaid Bulletin](#)

National AAFP Leader Delivers Welcome to NC Physicians

American Academy of Family Physicians Executive Vice President and CEO Douglas E. Henley, MD, FAAFP, welcomed attendees to the CCPN Clinician Conference Sunday evening with praise and support for CCPN primary care physicians.

In a video address to conference attendees, *See link here* <https://vimeo.com/218948109/9985cd0ff>

Dr. Henley highlighted the work of North Carolina's primary care physicians over the past 10-15 years as national leaders in primary care medical home transformation.

Dr. Henley also commented specifically on the importance of independent primary care practices.

He views these practices as a rich environment for learning, innova-

tion and rapid change. He believes CCPN's clinically integrated network can be a national model in reaching the quadruple aim of :

- Better Care,
- Improved Health Outcomes,
- Cost Effective Healthcare Spending, and
- Increased Physicians Satisfaction, which will be important when moving to alternate value-based payment models.

Dr. Henley ended his comments by saying he will be following CCPN's progress and success over the coming years.



Dr. Doug Henley



Dr. Craig Jones

Shared Data Will Boost Benefits of Value-Based Care

Craig Jones, MD, Founder and Former Director, Vermont Blueprint for Health, started Monday's conference activities with his presentation ***Transforming to Value-Based Care.***

Dr. Jones highlighted the fact that the United States spends the most on healthcare per capita in the world but is "in the middle of the pack" in health outcomes. In a value-based care system Dr. Jones believes addressing social determinants of health through increased spending on social services can positively impact health outcomes.

He proposed this can be achieved by making short-term business cases for having physician practices and social service agencies share data which result in a win-win for both. These successes can then lead to long-term health outcome goals in which all parties have a vested interest and are supported by the health information technology systems already in place. Dr. Jones answered many questions from the audience and challenged the group to consider additional measures other than the traditional health outcome metrics.

CCPN Priorities Support Practices

Denise Levis Hewson, RN, BSN, MSPH, CCPN's Chief Operating Officer, and Steven E. Wegner, MD, JD, CCPN Physician Executive, provided an overview of the CCPN Practice Survey results and a group vaccine purchasing update.

Ms. Levis Hewson reviewed the survey topics covered and the results submitted. Based on these results CCPN has prioritized efforts to support CCPN practices and physicians. Initially, these efforts will include group vaccine purchasing, quality reporting and EHR support. Other efforts may include group purchasing for medical and office supplies, health benefits, malpractice insurance, 24/7 nurse advice line and credentialing.

Initial research indicates there could be savings realized through group vaccine purchasing. But this will require participation commitments from practices for optimal results.

The Board of Managers will receive another update on this in 3-4 weeks. The conference attendees who came to the dinner on Sunday night discussed their priorities for CCPN as well.

These priorities included payer negotiations, group purchasing (including vaccines), and quality reporting.

If you have any input into this discussion please email Dr. Steve Wegner at swegner@ncaccesscare.org or Denise Levis Hewson at dlevis@n3cn.org.

PTN Offers Free Assistance

The CCNC Practice Transformation Network (PTN) Initiative is specifically recruiting CCPN practices interested in becoming better prepared to operate and succeed in the new value-based healthcare environment.

Participation in the PTN program is free and includes a coach to help your practice acquire the quality improvement skills that payers are demanding to avoid future penalties.

More than 150 CCPN practices are currently involved in this exciting initiative.

For more information, please contact Donna Bowen at dbowen@n3cn.org.



Quality Measures Up For CCPN Practices

Marian Earls, MD, MTS, FAAP and Robert Eick, MD, MPH made a joint presentation on CCPN's Quality Improvement activities including an overview of the quality measures, baseline data and reporting strategies.



Dr. Marian Earls and Dr. Robert Eick

Dr. Eick started the presentation with an overview of the practice-payer landscape and challenges faced by physicians. He then reviewed the CCPN Quality Improvement Committees and the pediatric and adult quality improvement measures the QI Committees have chosen to report on to payers. (See the link at [//bit.ly/2shFqi7](http://bit.ly/2shFqi7))

Using Medicaid claims (where available) Dr. Eick showed the current performance on the five adult metrics and discussed the importance of consistent data reporting from practices over time.

Dr. Earls began her talk on the measures sets which have been utilized up to this point and reviewed the plusses and minuses of claims data vs. EHR measures. She then showed how CCPN practices have performed (using Medicaid data) vs. CCNC practices on the CCPN QI measures as well as a few other measures and the CCPN practices have performed better on all of these measures. Dr. Earls ended the presentation with an overview of the work being done to assist physicians in quality reporting.

Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Networks:

Work for Pharmacists, Practices and Patients

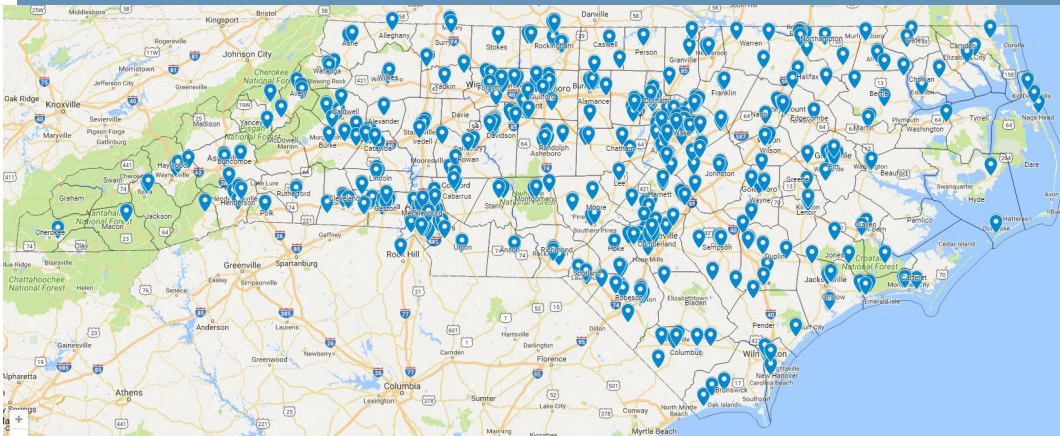
Troy Trygstad, Pharm.D, MBA, PhD, Vice President, CCNC Pharmacy Provider Partnerships, gave a presentation on the innovative Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Networks (CPESN) program. The CPESN program is a unique collaboration between local independent pharmacies and primary care physicians with the goal of improving health outcomes through enhanced medication management. Dr. Trygstad showed that current CCNC patients who are on the Medication Management Priority List have an average of



*Troy Trygstad,
Pharm.D*

35 pharmacy visits per year. Pharmacists who are part of CPESN provide enhanced services to enrollees such as Medication Reconciliation, Adherence Counseling and Packaging, and Monitoring/ Reinforcement of primary care medication use and care plans. Moving forward CPESN will continue to expand and look for new opportunities to collaborate with primary care physicians to demonstrate improved health outcomes.

CCPN: Spanning North Carolina



As of June 1, 2017

618 Practices

1,996 Clinicians

CCPN

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*

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

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

*Reuben Rivers, M.D.,
Fayetteville*

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

Board of Managers Focus on Conference

The CCPN Board of Managers met twice in the month of May. At the May 4 meeting the Board dedicated quite a lot of the agenda to final preparations for the Clinician Conference. Specifically Board Managers wanted to ensure their accessibility during the meeting so attendees can hear about CCPN directly from them. In addition Dr. Reuben Rivers was nominated and approved to join the Board of Managers. The Board also received a report from Dr. Larry Mann on the NC Pediatric Society's Open Forum where the pediatricians voiced concerns about maintaining the integrity of the EPSDT and the Bright Futures programs. At the May 21 meeting the Board ensured all details were set for the Clinician Conference and then continued with discussions about commercial payers and CCPN's engagement with specialists. The next Board of Managers meeting is scheduled for June 16.

Welcome New Practices

- Carolina Kids Pediatrics
- Eastway Medical Center -
Family Med & Urgent Care
- Halifax County Health
Department
- Holly Springs Pediatrics
- Lacy A. Colson, MD
- Oberlin Road Pediatrics, PA
- Richard A. Dougherty, MD
- Triangle Pediatric Center
- Village Family Care Center,
PA

[Click for a full list of
CCPN 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!

Getting Involved

Want to know more about
CCPN committees and how
you can get involved with
CCPN?

Contact Us

Denise Levis Hewson
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Torlen Wade
Executive Vice President, CCNC
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Contact
Shelley Keir at:
skeir@n3cn.org.
Submit changes to
Shelley Keir at:
skeir@n3cn.org.