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HealthMatch™ Update - A Report by Congressman Hinchey

Congressman Hinchey and Department of Health and Human Services Working to Help Rural Hospitals

Oct 15, 2010 - Ellenville, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) joined the United States Department of Health and Human Services Region II Director, Jaime Torres, and staff from Ellenville Regional Hospital for a conversation on what the federal government is doing to help rural hospitals attract the staff they need to provide adequate health services for area residents. Hinchey highlighted a number of recent pieces of legislation he voted for to help rural hospitals attract qualified nurses and doctors. He also discussed efforts the Ellenville hospital and community have undertaken to advance recruitment through a new program called HealthMatch, a service of the Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center.

"Hospitals in rural settings face a unique set of challenges and there are a number of initiatives I have worked on to help address those challenges," said Hinchey. "One of the problems they face is trouble recruiting an adequate number of qualified nurses and doctors. What I've worked to do is to expand the National Health Service Corporation, which provides scholarships and student loan repayment assistance to help nurses and doctors who agree to serve in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area. It's been a tremendously popular program. We've made some great progress, but today was a good chance to check in and listen about what else is being done and what else can be done to address this situation."

Ellenville Regional Hospital is located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA); a geographic area, population group, medical facility, or other public facility the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has designated as having an inadequate supply of qualified health care providers. The health care reform law also expanded a program to provide scholarships and student loan repayments for medical students, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and others who agree to a period of service as a primary care provider in full-time clinical practice in a federally designated HPSA.

During the visit to Ellenville, Hinchey and Torres listened to a presentation on HealthMatch, a collaborative new doctor recruitment effort between Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center, the hospital, and the communities of Ellenville and Wawarsing. HealthMatch is a health professional recruitment service designed specifically for small and rural communities in New York State. It provides the expertise and real-world experience to effectively match the right primary care providers with communities in need. The collaborative effort helps bring the commitment of health care, business, and civic leaders together in order to provide increased local access to quality healthcare throughout New York State.

"I was raised in a small, rural community in Puerto Rico" stated Jaime Torres, "and I understand the challenges these underserved areas face in attracting healthcare providers. I believe the HealthMatch approach to engage the community and key stakeholders in the recruitment and retention process is innovative and can be leveraged with state and federal incentive programs."



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HEALTHLINKS

A Newsletter from Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center

Fall/Winter 2010

Nursing Summit 2010 - Mock Trial and Beyond

On August 12, 2010, Catskill Hudson AHEC, in coordination with the New York Nurses Association (NYSNA) and the Upstate New York Nursing Staff Development Organization (UNYNADO), conducted its 7th Nursing Summit, entitled *Mock Trial and Beyond*.

This all-day workshop afforded attendees:

- The opportunity to learn about current legal issues that affect the nursing professional as a whole.
- The ability to understand the anatomy of nursing related litigation and learn how documentation affects the outcome.
- The hands-on opportunity to review a real-life court case where the audience was able to act as jury to determine the outcome.
- The opportunity to earn five continuing education credits.

Presentations included, "Legal Exclusive: How to Avoid Daily Practice Risks" by David Griffiths and Kate Mager; "I've Been Sued! Now What?" by Karen A. Butler, RN, BSN, JD; "Defensive Documentation: Nurses on the Front Line of Litigation" by Ann Marie Parisi, RN, CLNC; and an interactive mock trial entitled, "Mock Trial Simulation: You Be the Judge" by Shawna Patrick, MS, RN. During the mock trial presentation, attendees learned the elements of negligence and

how to determine a verdict in a civil trial.

Comments from attendees, such as: "Excellent program!" and "Very informative and inspiring. My life and practice is forever changed." emphasized the overwhelming "excellent" program rating.

The *Nursing Summit 2010 - Mock Trial and Beyond* is now available for sale on DVD for \$125.00. Please note that CE credits are not available through this offer. All presentations are included except "Legal Exclusive, How to Avoid Daily Practice Risks." For purchase information, please email us at info@chahec.org. For information on this and other healthcare programs, please visit our website at www.chahec.org/programs.



Pictured from left to right: Joyce McCormack, MS, RN; Susan Everett, BSN, RN, CDE; Betsy Herlihy, MS, RN; Shawna Patrick, MS, RN; Andrea Nero, MS, RNC; Patti-Jo Ferraro, MS, RN; Roxanna Raffu, MSN, RN; and Deanna Spendiff, MS, RN

A PARTNER IN THE NEW YORK STATE AHEC SYSTEM

One Student's Revealing SEARCH

The Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) program, which is coordinated by the NYS AHEC System in conjunction with the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS), allows health professions students and residents interested in working with underserved populations an opportunity to serve on multidisciplinary healthcare teams in hospitals, community health centers, offices, and clinics in underserved communities.

Priyal Patel, D.O. Candidate, 2013, New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, documented her SEARCH experience with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Center, which was arranged through Catskill Hudson AHEC. Following is her personal experience:

“Not knowing what to expect from a community rotation, particularly with a diverse population, I was pleasantly surprised to have the opportunity to conduct personal interviews and learn more about the LGBTQ population healthcare needs. This rotation afforded me the opportunity to meet several members of the LGBTQ community, attend youth and senior group meetings as well as a conference with Senator Gillibrand's staff. From all of these encounters, I learned a great deal about straight privilege, equality, politics, and healthcare as these issues pertain to the LGBTQ community.”

“I learned that being a straight medical student had great advantages. I never had to explain my sexual orientation or face rejection and alienation by friends and family due to my choices. Most importantly, I never had to explain to our government and fellow citizens why I thought I deserved specific health and human rights.”

“I recalled one evening when Barbara Fried, the Project Director of the LGBTQ Center, received a

hate call. To me, this situation was appalling, but by no means surprising. I noticed that some visitors of the center felt uncomfortable being in a place dedicated to the needs of this specific community. I realized that though some people did not openly discriminate against LGBTQ individuals, many had subtle ways of demonstrating their discomfort and lack of understanding of non-traditional life choices. What became obvious was the fact that many people really do have preconceived notions about the LGBTQ community and that as a medical student and future doctor, I needed to start thinking about and promoting patient inclusivity in our healthcare system.”

“I recommend [this experience] to anyone who is looking to go into a career in medicine. My experience was positive and rewarding and I became more culturally competent than I was before.”

SEARCH rotations must last a minimum of 120 hours. There is some housing and transportation reimbursement available for the students that participate in the SEARCH Program. Precepting sites receive \$500 in site support for each student placed in the following areas: Clinical Psychology, Clinical Social Work, Dental Hygiene, Dentistry, Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, Marriage and Family Therapy, Nurse-Midwifery, Nurse Practitioner, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Physician Assistant, Psychiatric Nursing, and Psychology.

For more information or to participate in the SEARCH Program, please contact Myra Rivera at mriviera@chahec.org.



Left to right: Barbara Fried and Priyal Patel

New! - Catskill Hudson AHEC Programs

Please visit our website at www.chahec.org/programs for a sampling or a full list of Catskill Hudson AHEC programs and click on the new link for Catskill Hudson AHEC programs that are available for purchase.

CHAHEC Welcomes new Board Members

Catskill Hudson AHEC is pleased to welcome Lawrence H. Bopp, PhD and Henry Weil, MD to our Board of Directors.

Lawrence H. Bopp, PhD, is the Associate Professor, Department of Natural Sciences, SUNY Cobleskill; Research Scientist, Dept. of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Bopp has received several honors/awards, four patents, and has published an extensive number of papers, chapters, abstracts, and other reports.

Henry Weil, MD, is a physician at Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, NY. Dr. Weil is currently Assistant

Dean for Education at Columbia's medical school, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and co-leads Columbia's new medical school campus at Bassett. Previously, Dr. Weil has served as Bassett's director of the medicine residency and director of medical informatics, amongst other roles.

Catskill Hudson AHEC is fortunate to add our new Board Members' expertise while moving forward toward the future of improving the quality, geographic distribution and retention of healthcare professionals and stimulating interest in health professions careers through education across our 11-county service area.

Real World of Healthcare Experience at DVH

Students looking for a different kind of camp spent two days in the real world of hospital healthcare on October 18th and 20th, attending M*A*S*H Camp (or Medical Academy of Science and Health) at Delaware Valley Hospital in Walton, NY. Twenty-three Students from nine area school districts attended, including Walton, Downsville, Roscoe, Franklin, Delhi, Bainbridge, Norwich, Hancock, and Charlotte Valley. Attendees had the opportunity to visit many departments of the Hospital and experience hands-on activities in the medical unit, ambulatory surgery, emergency department, primary care center, radiology, laboratory, respiratory therapy, and physical therapy, according to M*A*S*H Camp Coordinator, Cindy Gardepe, Delaware Valley Hospital Human Resource Development.

Students were able to learn about different health careers, typical job responsibilities, educational requirements, and skills needed to succeed in health careers through workshops designed by healthcare professionals.

This two-day camp was co-sponsored by Delaware Valley Hospital, Catskill Hudson AHEC, and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, who have partnered to address the mutual goal of alleviating the shortage of health professionals in New York State by encouraging young people to explore health professions.



SUNY New Paltz MedQuest Adventure

Catskill Hudson AHEC sponsored six SUNY New Paltz Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) students enabeling them to attend MedQuest Camp 2010 at Albany Medical College. MedQuest is a week-long Health Careers Exploration Camp. This year's camp was held from July 19th through the 23rd. Hands-on activities included CPR and Patient Assessment Training, Casting, and Suturing. Students visited the Emergency Room, Pulmonary Lab, OB/GYN Department, and OT/PT. Workshops/lectures included an overview of how to get into medical school and what to expect once you get there; careers in medical ethics,

medical research, physician assistant, and nursing; an overview of nutrition and diabetes education; and what defines health. One student commented, “Thank you so much for facilitating this great opportunity. I really enjoyed it and it opened my eyes to what the health field has to offer.”

To learn more about our programs, please visit: www.chahec.org/programs

