



Physical address:  
24 Oglethorpe Professional Blvd.3rd  
Floor  
Savannah GA 31406  
Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 15879  
Savannah GA 31416

Paula D. Reynolds, MD, MPH  
Executive Director  
Phone: 912-644-5219  
Fax: 912-644-5230  
E-mail: ccsnpc@gmail.com

## CCSNPC Members & Partners

The CCSNPC provider network consists of primary health care providers and agencies that support the delivery of health care by targeting specific populations or services. Key providers are two federally qualified health centers: Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care and J.C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center, and three private or hospital-affiliated "volunteers in medicine" clinics: Community Health Mission, St. Mary's Health Center, and Good Samaritan Clinic. The Council is made up of representatives from these primary care providers along with others from local agencies, governmental bodies and community stakeholders such as MedBank, United Way, Union Mission, Community Cardiovascular Council, Georgia Medical Society, Department of Family and Children Services, City of Savannah, Chatham County, Eastside Concerned Citizens, StepUp Savannah, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah Business Group and the 100 Black Men of Savannah. The emergency departments of the Memorial University Medical Center and St. Joseph's / Candler Health System are included in the CCSNPC network because for many individuals, the hospital EDs have been used as sources of primary health care. The Chatham County Health Department acts as a neutral convener of the Council.

Visit us at [www.ChathamSafetyNet.org](http://www.ChathamSafetyNet.org)

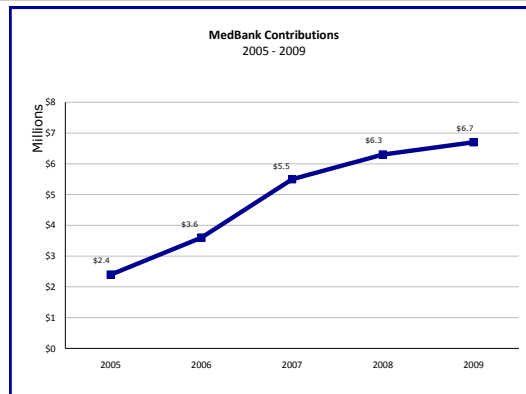


### CCSNPC Executive Committee

Back row, left to right: Agnes Cannella, Leon Burton, Paula Reynolds  
Front row, left to right: Aretha Jones, Diane Weems, Jennifer Wright, Robert Bush

## Pharmaceutical Assistance in the CCSNPC System

MedBank Foundation, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that offers prescription assistance to low-income patients of area health providers and is a member of CCSNPC. In response to CCSNPC's 2005 goal of increasing access to prescription assistance for our community's un/underinsured population, Liz Longshore, Executive Director of MedBank, designed and developed a project to place MedBank representatives on-site in the CCSNPC clinics. Patients are able to consult with a MedBank staff member face-to-face and complete the applications for prescription assistance at the same time as their appointments with their primary care providers and to pick up their medications at the clinics. Through this innovative program, MedBank provided more than \$6.7 million in free medications to the CCSNPC patient population in 2009, a 279% increase over the \$2.4 million provided in 2005. CCSNPC expects this program to grow even further with the addition of staff at more clinics and new sites for access to MedBank services.



## Acknowledgements

The Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council is indebted to the **Chatham County Commissioners** for their exceptional support of health care for the uninsured and their vision in establishing our Council.

We appreciate the countless hours of work and in-kind donations from our partners, members and volunteers. On behalf of our patients, special recognition goes to the specialty physicians who have donated their time and services. We thank the **Chatham County Health Department** for housing our staff and acting as our fiscal agent. Special thanks go out to **St. Joseph's/Candler Health System** for printing this 2009-2010 Annual Report.



### CCSNPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### Chair

Diane Weems, MD  
Medical Director  
Chatham County Health Department

#### Vice Chair

Leon Burton  
Executive Director  
Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care

#### Treasurer

Aretha Jones, MPH  
Director  
J. C. Lewis Health Center

#### Secretary

Robert Bush, JD  
Project Attorney  
Georgia Legal Services

#### Policy Committee

Agnes Cannella  
Director  
Mission Services  
St. Joseph's/Candler Health Systems

#### Evaluation Committee

Jennifer Wright  
Director of Public Policy and Medical Staff Affairs  
Memorial University Medical Center

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# CHATHAM COUNTY SAFETY NET PLANNING COUNCIL, INC FY 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## CCSNPC receives the 2010 Joseph D. Greene Award

On March 31, 2010, Healthcare Georgia Foundation (HGF) announced the recipients of the Joseph D. Greene Community Service Award who were honored for their volunteer work and dedication to advancing health and health care across Georgia. The announcements took place during Connections 2010: Leadership in Difficult Economic Times, HGF's fourth convening of grantees, partners, and community leaders.

Healthcare Georgia Foundation (HGF) is a Georgia-based, statewide private independent foundation. HGF's mission is to advance the health of all Georgians and to expand access to affordable, quality health-care for underserved individuals and communities. Joseph D. Greene helped steward the HGF from its inception in 1999 through his retirement as board chair in 2006. In 2008, Healthcare Georgia Foundation dedicated its community service award program in his honor. CCSNPC was selected to receive this award in appreciation of our "compassionate and unselfish efforts to improve the health of all Georgians." CCSNPC was asked to designate a non-profit organization as the beneficiary of a \$1000 gift. CCSNPC unanimously voted to name the Savannah Volunteer Dental Clinic as the recipient.



### CCSNPC accepts the Joseph D. Greene award at Connections 2010

Pictured Left to Right: Gary Nelson, President, Healthcare Georgia Foundation; Miriam Rittmeyer, Community Health Mission; Greta Tholstrup, Good Samaritan; Dana Huffman, Memorial University Medical Center; Aretha Jones, J.C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center; Diane Weems, MD, Chair, CCSNPC; Paula Reynolds, MD, MPH, Executive Director, CCSNPC; Liz Longshore, MedBank; Magdaline Scott, St. Mary's Health Center; Frances J. Tedesco, MD, Board Chair, Healthcare Georgia Foundation; and Jennifer Wright, Memorial University Medical Center

## Commissioner Pete Liakakis named Healthcare Hero



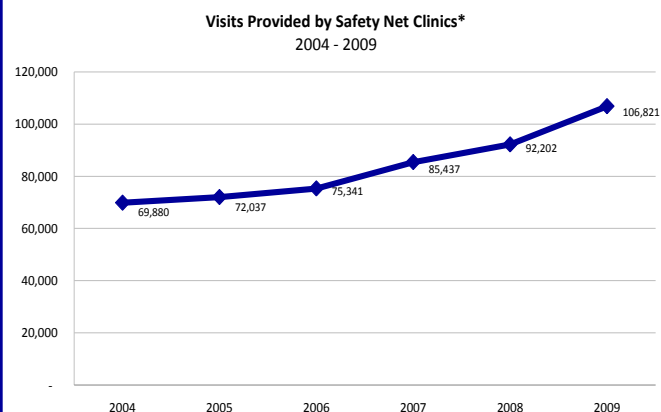
Nominated by CCSNPC, Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis received the Health Care Hero award from the Georgia Medical Society for his leadership and vision in enhancing access to quality health care for uninsured and underinsured Chatham County residents in October 2009. Chairman Liakakis built on the early work of prior community leaders to fully develop and support a community-wide collaborative of Safety Net providers and to authorize the formal establishment of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council in 2004. Chairman Liakakis clearly understands the negative health and economic consequences of a community without quality health care resources for all. The continued support of Chairman Liakakis and the entire Chatham County Commission has enabled the Council to flourish, becoming an independent non-profit organization and securing over \$1,250,000 in cumulative grant funding for enhancing capacity and improving infrastructure to serve the uninsured.

Pictured Above: Dr. Dan DeLoach, Chairman, Georgia Medical Society Healthcare Heroes Award Program, presents the Healthcare Hero award to Chatham County Commission Chairman, Pete Liakakis at the 2009 awards program.



To read the full 2009 Evaluation Report, please visit [www.chathamssafetynet.org](http://www.chathamssafetynet.org)

## 2009 Evaluation



\* 2004 data includes Curtis V. Cooper Primary Health Care (CVC), J.C. Lewis Health Center (JCL), Community Health Care Center (CHCC), Savannah Health Mission (SHM), and Ryan White HIV Clinic (RWHIV).  
2005 data includes CVC, JCL, CHCC, SHM, and RWHIV.  
2006 - 2007 data include CVC, JCL, RWHIV, and Community Health Mission (CHM, formed by the merger of CHCC and SHM).  
2008 data includes CVC, JCL, CHM, Chatham Care (CARE, formerly RWHIV), St. Mary's Community Center (SM), Good Samaritan Clinic (GS), and Community Cardiovascular Council (CCC).  
2009 data includes CVC, JCL, CHM, CARE, SM, GS, and CCC.

To assess changes in need, track trends and identify gaps in local health care delivery services, CCSNPC prepares yearly evaluations based upon data submitted voluntarily by members of the provider network. In the calendar year 2009, the CCSNPC capacity continued to grow.

Patient visits include a variety of services such as primary care, dental care, health education, laboratory services, wellness and screening. CCSNPC providers tracked 106,821 patient visits within the system, surpassing the goal of 100,000 visits.

This represents a 15.9% increase over 2008 and a 52.8% increase since 2004.

Community awareness of health care opportunities in the CCSNPC network has resulted in steadily increasing demand and usage. In response, capacity in the provider system has been expanded to meet our population's needs.

To read the complete 2009 Annual Evaluation, please visit our website and select the "Reports" section under "About Us."

## CCSNPC Grant Funded Projects

### Our Mission

The mission of the Planning Council is to develop an infrastructure to maximize access and utilization of health services and to leverage available resources to assure improved health status for our residents.

### Georgia Department of Community Health (GA DCH)

CCSNPC received funding from the GA DCH in 2007 to encourage the adoption of Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and to develop a system of secure communication among the safety net providers for the purpose of improving health and care in our community. Two partners, J. C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center (JCLPHCC), a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center, and MUMC Emergency Department acquired EMR systems in 2008-2009. These two partners were selected for the Implementation of a Pilot Health Information Exchange Project with CCSNPC beginning in October 2009. The Pilot Project Participants formed a new working group to develop the Health Information Exchange and successfully complete the project as directed by the DCH grant. The final DCH grant report is available for review on our website.

### Chatham CAN (Creating Access Now)

In February 2009, Healthcare Georgia Foundation funded the joint effort of the Georgia Medical Society and CCSNPC to assess specialty care needs of the Chatham County uninsured population, to develop a method to organize and track referrals to specialty care and to engage the local specialty care provider community in providing care at low or no cost to the patient. Chatham CAN has adopted a software system to organize and track specialty referrals, logging 953 referrals in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Specialists have signed formal agreements to participate in the areas of otolaryngology (ENT), ophthalmology, neurosurgery, gastroenterology, pathology, radiology and orthopedics. Additional services have been provided by general surgeons, cardiologist and podiatrists. Chatham CAN also works closely with another grant, ACT, to track referrals for screening colonoscopies.

### ACT (Assess, Connect, Teach)

In May 2009 CCSNPC was awarded a grant through the Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance (SEGCA) as part of a regional effort to increase uninsured patients' access to cancer screening. ACT, CCSNPC's project, directly addresses the goal of the Georgia State Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan "to remove barriers to cancer screening services" and "to stimulate participation in recommended screenings for breast, colorectal, cervical and prostate cancers." During the grant period, ACT provided colorectal cancer education and risk assessments to 575 individuals. In cooperation with Gastroenterology Consultants of Savannah, ACT provided 30 colonoscopies to low income, uninsured patients at no charge. Continuing funds for the follow-up project, ACT II, were awarded to CCSNPC in June 2010.

For the complete year end reports on our grant funded projects, please visit our website, [www.chathamssafetynet.org](http://www.chathamssafetynet.org), and select "Grants" under the "About Us" tab.

FY 2009-2010

## ChathamHealthLink, CCSNPC's Health Information Exchange\*



ChathamHealthLink connects CCSNPC providers through a Central Data Repository, as illustrated by the above diagram.

CCSNPC was named one of three state Health Information Exchange (HIE) demonstration projects by the Georgia DCH in 2007. An IT Consortium was formed to manage the process. Chaired by Patty Lavelly, CIO of MUMC, the consortium worked with consultants to design the CCSNPC HIE architecture. The primary challenge was the linkage of unrelated providers with different EMR systems and the ability to produce reports of de-identified data from the system.

The consortium elected to structure the HIE based on a CCSNPC-managed Central Data Repository which stores patient encounters and data elements contributed by participating partners. After reviewing multiple vendor proposals and presentations, the IT Consortium decided unanimously to contract with OrionHealth following a rigorous selection process ultimately. Implementation of the HIE, ChathamHealthLink, began in October 2009. For more information on OrionHealth, visit [www.orionhealth.com](http://www.orionhealth.com)

**\*An electronic system through which any number or type of health care entities can share private patient information in an accurate and secure manner**

## Launching the Link to a Healthy County

On April 14, 2010, community leaders and health care providers gathered at J. C. Lewis Primary Health Care Center to celebrate a bold and important step for our community, the launch of our Health Information Exchange, ChathamHealthLink. At maturity, ChathamHealthLink will provide patients with a central health record, reduction of repeat laboratory and other testing and fewer delays in appropriate care and medical errors. Health care providers will have secure, easily accessible electronic records, communication through protected electronic portals and the ability to see complete information, reduce duplication and avoid errors. ChathamHealthLink will allow CCSNPC to unduplicate patient records to record accurate counts of patients served, follow trends in access and health outcomes and have secure patient records in the case of an emergency evacuation.



Pictured above right: Participants in the formal connection ceremony at Launching the Link to a Healthy County: Patty Lavelly, CIO, Memorial University Medical Center; Mike Burke, VP of Sales, North America, OrionHealth; Diane Weems, MD, Chair, Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council; W. D. Skelton, MD, Director, Coastal Health District; Pete Liakakis, Chairman, Chatham County Commission; Ramon V. Meguiar, M.D., Sr. Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Memorial University Medical Center; Steve Hulverson, VP of Sales, Eastern United States, OrionHealth; Aretha Jones, VP of Health Services, Union Mission; Micheal Elliott, President, Union Mission; Gwendolyn Glover, Project Director, Georgia DCH, Health Information Technology grant.

## Chatham County - A 2010 County of Excellence

Chatham County was named a 2010 County of Excellence by Georgia Trend Magazine for its work with the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council. The announcement appeared in the March 2010 issue of Georgia Trend. The competition is sponsored by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and Georgia Trend. Counties are encouraged to submit innovative ideas that are well carried out. Winners are selected by an independent panel of judges convened by ACCG. ACCG Executive Director Jerry Griffith says that the awards "showcase how counties are developing unique programs and facilities to meet the needs of their communities. This program provides a forum to celebrate their accomplishments and to inspire other local governments."

CHATHAM COUNTY SAFETY NET PLANNING COUNCIL, INC  
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Today's physicians would not dream of practicing without a stethoscope or examining table. In the future, they will not consider practicing without an Electronic Health Record.†

Dr. David Blumenthal,

Director

Office of the National Coordinator for HIT (ONC)

†<http://www.psqh.com/online-articles/158-dr-blumenthal-presents-onc-vision-at-hit-symposium.html>