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Members & Partners

The Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council (CCSNPC) is a county-wide planning body of key stakeholders interested in improving health care for the uninsured and underinsured. Our goal is to make the health care system for primary care stronger, increase the size of the system within our community, make it easier to find health care, and link the uninsured and underinsured to a medical home. The Council also strives to make Chatham County healthier by working together on common problems. We believe that working together will lead to a better system of prevention, health education, care, and treatment. To us, working together means communicating and sharing ideas to find better ways to provide health care to more people. 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, Chatham CARE, Georgia Medical Society, Georgia Legal Services, Department of Family and Children Services, City of Savannah, Chatham County, Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance, Eastside Concerned Citizens, StepUp Savannah, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah Business Group, the 100 Black Men of Savannah, Memorial University Medical Center, and St. Joseph's / Candler Health System. The Chatham County Health Department acts as a neutral convener of the Council. New members include Healthy Savannah and Youth Futures.

Partner Spotlight:

Community Cardiovascular Council

The Community Cardiovascular Council (CCC) celebrated 43 years of service to Savannah on June 26, 2012, making it one of the most successful and innovative community health collaboratives in our community's history. CCC's mission is "to coordinate the community's resources to reduce the death, disability and suffering caused by stroke, heart attack and kidney failure." Undetected and uncontrolled high blood pressure is a leading risk factor for cardiovascular disease. Over its long history, CCC has sustained its intervention efforts with an ambitious, countywide stroke and blood pressure screening campaign. To date, they have performed over 700,000 screenings and brought health education to the community in health fairs, churches, fire stations, and beauty/barber shops. With recent changes in the economy, CCC had to close its doors as of June 30, 2012. CCSNPC thanks CCC, Dr. James Metts, MD, and Chuck Powell, Executive Director for their untiring service to citizens of Chatham County and for being an inspiration and example to other community groups which have followed in their footsteps.



Pictured at right: Chuck Powell, Executive Director of CCC, (left) congratulates Dr. James Metts, Chairman of the Community Cardiovascular Council

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 to **St. Joseph's/Candler Health System** for printing this report.



CCSNPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Diane Weems, MD
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 Chatham County Health Department

Vice Chair

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CHATHAM COUNTY SAFETY NET PLANNING COUNCIL, INC FY 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

ONC Consumer Innovation Challenge



Left to Right: Dr. Paula Reynolds, CHL Director, Peter Banks, Project Officer, ONC for HIT, Dept of HHS, Kory Mertz, Challenge Grant Director, State HIE Programs, ONC for HIT

ChathamHealthLink (CHL) was selected to represent the state of Georgia in an exciting opportunity to participate in a national project directed by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology (HIT). The Consumer Innovation Challenge (CIC) includes leaders in HIT from across the US who will develop the technology to increase patients' access to their health information. With support from the Georgia Department of Community Health (GA-DCH), CHL will establish the HIT pathways to send real time health results to patients who subscribe to the service and obtain a secure email address to a Personal Health Record (PHR). Chatham County residents will be able to access their information from a single source rather than having to organize it themselves from a number of sources. Personal Health Records are key in ensuring that patients have a central role in managing their own health, both in prevention and chronic disease management.

ChathamHealthLink

ChathamHealthLink (CHL), CCSNPC's Health Information Exchange Project, will complete the initial Pilot Phase in the fall of 2012. During the Pilot, CHL worked with J.C.Lewis Primary Health Care Center (JCLPHCC) and Memorial University Medical Center Emergency Department (MUMC-ED) to develop, refine, and evaluate the processes necessary to successfully transmit and share health information. Central patient records were established in a secure data base to ensure that patient care across the two providers was seamless and accurate. A system of alerts was established to make sure that JCLPHCC patients who visited MUMC-ED were seen in follow up by their primary care provider. In anticipation of adding the additional CCSNPC providers to the system in late 2012, all of the CCSNPC providers have made significant progress in adopting Electronic Medical Records. CHL also undertook a thorough technological and functional assessment identifying software and hardware upgrades necessary to create a reliable and secure system for Chatham County residents and providers. ChathamHealthLink is funded through the allocation of a percentage of the Chatham County Indigent care funds, a decision by the Chatham County Commission in December 2011.



Left:
 Jeff Street, Georgia Regional Extension Center, Ophelia Spear, Project Director, GA-DCH, Brian Ahier, HIT consultant, Dr. Paula Reynolds, CHL Director
 Right:
 Cory Weston, CHL IT Manager, confers with Ali Emami of Microsoft Healthvault, ONC CIC conference



*Read more about the ONC's Consumer Innovation Challenge on our website www.chlink.org and at <http://www.healthit.gov> <http://ahier.blogspot.com/2012/03/consumer-innovation-challenge.html>

CCSNPC Grant Funded Projects

PACT: Prostate Screening

Prostate Assess-Connect -Treat (PACT), funded by the Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance, provided prostate biopsies to uninsured men living at 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) or lower with confirmed positive prostate cancer screenings. PACT removed barriers to men receiving follow on diagnostic procedures once they had a positive screening for prostate cancer and helped to understand how to encourage more men to undergo screening and diagnosis.

Numerous agencies in Chatham County provide prostate cancer screening, outreach, and education including the American Cancer Society, Community Cardiovascular Council, and both hospitals. However, there has been no reliable process by which uninsured men who are found to have a positive screening can be ensured of a prostate biopsy if one is recommended. Through PACT, men with an elevated prostate specific antibody (PSA) and/or positive digital rectal exam (DRE) were referred from primary care providers at the CCSNPC clinics. The CCSNPC care navigator helped arrange appointments and provided prostate cancer education. PACT received 17 referrals through June 1, 2012. Of these, 4 were ineligible due to financial or other reasons, 2 were lost to follow up or contact and 2 refused the referral. Of the remaining 9, one was found to have early stage prostate cancer.

Georgia Health Foundation

In December 2010, the Georgia Health Foundation awarded Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council \$25,000 toward a project which would lead to the design of a central system to screen, guide and educate un/underinsured families/patients as to their opportunities to receive health care in Chatham County. At the same time, a social worker offered to identify and help patients to apply for and maintain any benefits they were eligible for, including health insurance. CCSNPC proposed to begin with a pilot project to identify patients who visited the Memorial University Medical Center Emergency Department for primary care, who were without insurance and without a medical home. In late February 2011, a case manager was hired to carry out the project at JCLPHCC.

As of December 31, 2011, 743 individuals who were known to be patients at JCLPHCC were seen at the MUMC Emergency Department. Of these, 539 were reached by telephone and 210 made appointments at JCLPHCC. Of these, 54 were interviewed in person by the social worker who assessed their needs and connected them to healthcare and other services according to their needs. This project has contributed to our understanding of ED usage patterns and benefited both CCSNPC and our patient population by allowing us to identify individuals in the community who have previously not had a medical home and connecting them with a provider for ongoing care.

Natalie Walker



Natalie Walker, MSW, MPH, CHES received a 2011 Healthcare Heroes Award from the Georgia Medical Society. Ms. Walker implemented a number of key projects on behalf of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council over the past six years, most recently, a grant project funded through the Southeast Georgia Cancer Alliance/Georgia Cancer Coalition. This two year project, ACT/ACT II (Assess-Connect-Teach) provided colorectal cancer risk assessments, colorectal cancer health education, and colorectal cancer screening to uninsured, low income adults. During the grant period July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2011, Ms. Walker provided assessments and education to 1,429 adults and coordinated colonoscopies (at no charge to the patient) for 88 individuals who were determined to be at high risk for colorectal cancer. Her professionalism and energy, along with her personal mission to educate and engage the population in colorectal cancer screening, has made a tremendous contribution to colorectal cancer awareness and prevention in our community.

2011 Healthcare Hero

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...

For the complete year end reports on our grant-funded projects, please visit www.chathamsafetynet.org and select "Grants" under the "About Us" tab.

Liz Longshore

2011 CCSNPC High Flyer



At the December 2011 CCSNPC meeting, Liz Longshore, Executive Director of MedBank, was honored with the second annual High Flyer award. Ms. Longshore was selected because of her dedication to "finding creative and innovative solutions through collaboration to enhance and expand medication assistance to the uninsured of Chatham County and thereby helping CCSNPC." MedBank provides staff to a growing number of CCSNPC clinic locations to streamline and standardize the application and eligibility processes for patients, monitor and automate refills, and allow patients to pick up donated medications at the clinic sites. Over the past three years, MedBank has contributed over \$6.7 million wholesale value of medications to CCSNPC patients. This invaluable assistance helps patients obtain medications vital to their health.

CCSNPC 2011 Evaluation

The CCSNPC performed its Annual Evaluation for 2011. Patient visits, an indicator of trends in access to health care, increased once again to 130,730. This increase was achieved despite a shift in funding which caused several providers to adjust staff, services and hours of operation. Conversely, the number of patients served in the system declined to 26,956. Providers have been working together to encourage patients to select a medical home so it is likely that the reduction in patients may represent a decrease in duplication across the system. Much of the decrease in patient numbers is evident in the decrease in the number of patients served who do not live in Chatham County. CCSNPC continues to be successful in treating a high proportion of adults who are uninsured within the system of clinics. Patients who visit the county's Emergency Departments for care are less likely to be adults and less likely to be Chatham County residents. This distribution was observed in the 2010 data as well. Pharmaceutical assistance rose 8% to over \$14 million in wholesale value of the medications provided. MedBank has expanded the program to co-locate staff in our provider clinics to expedite the process of determining eligibility, providing convenient pick up of donated medications, and automating the ordering of refills on behalf of patients.

For the full 2011 report, please visit www.chathamsafetynet.org.



	CCSNPC Clinics		Hospital EDs	
	Number	%	Number	%
Visits	130,730		44,532	
Patients	26,956		33,030	
Average visits/patient	4.5		1.4	
Adults	22,314	83%	18,946	57%
Children	3,294	12%	11,345	34%
Uninsured	21,300	79%	15,733	48%
Chatham County	25,132	93%	27,471	83%

In Appreciation: CCSNPC thanks Dr. W. Doug Skelton

On June 1, 2012, Chatham County honored Dr. W. Doug Skelton as he retired from a long career of service to Georgia and Chatham County. Dr. Skelton served as Director of the Coastal Health District, an eight county area spanning the Georgia Coast from the South Carolina to Florida borders since 2004. An outspoken champion of the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council, Dr. Skelton served as a member-at-large since CCSNPC's inception. Not only has he been a champion of CCSNPC, but he has supported members and partner organizations in their formation and growth during his tenure with our community. CCSNPC thanked Dr. Skelton at the retirement ceremony and presented him with a photograph signed by CCSNPC members. Dr. Skelton is looking forward to his new position as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Dean, Trinity School of Medicine in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

