

What's Working

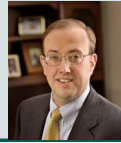


Volume 1, Issue 3

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Economic Healthcare

by Greg Dent, CHW President and CEO
(Respond to Greg at gdent@chwg.org)



I recently had the privilege, as a member of the Board of the National Rural Health Association, of speaking to the U.S. House Appropriations, Subcommittee on Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The point I tried to make in my testimony is how vitally important healthcare is in rural America *ECONOMICALLY*.

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), if local health care disappears, 20 percent of a local economy can go with it. In many rural communities, the health sector is one of the largest employers—often in an area where jobs are scarce. Take those jobs away and it's a local economic disaster.

Also, a strong rural healthcare system helps keep the workforce healthy—which may be very important in bringing employers and jobs to rural communities.

Some governmental actions that could be very helpful to rural communities are grants and loans for capital improvement—especially for information technology, such as is proposed in the 2007 Farm Bill. Also very important are increased health insurance coverage for rural Americans-- including the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program --and increased fairness and equity in the Medicare and Medicaid systems for rural beneficiaries.

RX for the Uninsured News

by Joseph Andrews, Director of Care Management
(Respond to Joseph at jandrews@chwg.org)



We have just completed a member-satisfaction survey. We sent a 10-question survey to 500 of our 2,100 *Rx for the Uninsured* members and received 137 replies. Our members gave us all A's. What really touched me, though, was the comments the members made. I thought I would share a few:

"My doctor is the best doctor I have ever had. You all care about people." -- F.L.S.

"I know it may look funny or strange that I gave all good marks but that's the way I feel. Everyone has been so wonderful and made me feel like a person, not a charity case."--J.C.

"I am pleased with the attention, care and understanding of my Care Manager."--W.M.H.

"A great load has been taken off my shoulders."-- P.J.

"If it wasn't for CHW, I would not be able to see a doctor or get medicines for my health problem. I am so thankful for this program."--B.M.H.

"Community Health Works is a good thing. It has helped a lot of working people who do not have health insurance." --L.R.P.



CHW's Board recently completed a strategic planning session in Forsyth. Facilitator Martha McGinnis helped our leaders focus on the big picture.

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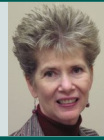
Nancy Peed, CEO, Peach Regional Medical Center

Fred Schnell, MD, Oncologist, Central Georgia Cancer Care

Central GA Cancer Coalition Report

by Gayle Bina, CGCC Executive Director

(Respond to Gayle at gbina@chwg.org)



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Cancer Care Patient Navigator Robin Marshburn recently spoke to employees of the Medical Center of Central Georgia.

All of us working with the Central Georgia Cancer Coalition are excited about the establishment of an American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program at the Medical Center of Central Georgia for oncology patients and their care givers. This unique program guides cancer patients through their cancer diagnosis, treatment, recovery, and remission.

In 2004, CGCC learned of the American Cancer Society Patient Navigator Program at the American Cancer Society's Volunteer Summit and knew this vital service was needed in Central Georgia. CGCC "got the ball rolling" with the American Cancer Society and the Medical Center of Central Georgia. Two years later the program has become a reality and is now benefiting local cancer patients.

ACS Patient Navigator Robin Marshburn has been onsite at the MCGG since June 2007. With a Master of Public Health degree from Mercer University and six years of experience, Ms. Marshburn is equipped to give guidance and support to cancer patients. She links cancer patients, survivors, and care-givers to needed information and resources throughout their cancer journey.



Central Georgia Cancer Coalition Executive Director Gayle Bina poses with Lindsey McMurry of the American Cancer Society at Cancer Information Day. The health fair was sponsored by the Medical Center of Central Georgia and held at the Wellness Center in Macon on June 18, 2007.

CHW Featured in Article

By Buzz Tanner, Director of Development and Communications

(Respond to Buzz at btanner@chwg.org)



Dr. Karen Minyard, Executive Director of the Georgia Health Policy Center, and seven other authors from the Policy Center and across the country, have published an article on the website of the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation promoting high performing health care systems. Entitled "Lessons from Local Access Initiatives: Contributions and Challenges," the article presents case studies of five initiatives around the nation that have made a difference in their communities. CHW is one of them.

The study concerns our *Rx for the Uninsured* program. Of the program, the article states: "The CHW model has demonstrated desired changes in utilization. The evaluation results show changed behavior in terms of inpatient hospital admissions and ED visits, resulting in subsequent decreased costs, and potentially improved health status (p. 27)."

Referring to all five initiatives, the authors wrote, "Local initiatives typically offer a bridge to public and private coverage, creating steps to coverage and care for individuals who are eligible but have difficulty in finding coverage, staying insured, or assembling the care they need within available coverage. Local initiatives also offer communities a vehicle for investment in the form of grants, state contracts and organized volunteerism. Without such initiatives, there may be no entity in the community able to receive or organize these resources (p. 6)."

Citation: K. Minyard, D. Chollet, L. Felland et al., Lessons from Local Access Initiatives: Contributions and Challenges, The Commonwealth Fund, August 2007. For complete article, see

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=515749



American Cancer Society's Area Manager Brenda Haulik presented Alison Sheffield, Central Georgia Cancer Coalition program coordinator, the "Rookie of the Year" Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service at the American Cancer Society's Annual Volunteer Summit on Aug. 18.