NYeC and United Way's 2-1-1 NY Receive Award from HHS for Innovative Partnership to Advance Health Equity

NYeC and 2-1-1 NY, a subsidiary of United Way, have partnered to win a Social Care Referrals Challenge award from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)' Administration for Community Living. Together, NYeC and 2-1-1 NY will create a foundation for stakeholders across New York and beyond to support information exchange spanning health and data related to social needs and services.

"Community-based organizations must be supported to assist healthcare providers with resources to improve overall health, reduce disparities, and increase wellbeing of patients and communities. While several systems have emerged in recent years to address these types of needs, they are disparate and not interoperable. These are gaps we can fill so stakeholders can continue to innovate within this space for the betterment of our broader community," said NYeC CEO, Valerie Grey.

NYeC and 2-1-1 NY will begin by establishing a trust framework and statewide governance structure to support collaboration and exchange of community information across existing networks and users. This framework will develop an aggregated, comprehensive statewide resource repository of community-based organizations and services that will support healthcare providers' ability to make appropriate referrals, facilitate the exchange of social determinants of health (SDoH) data, and ultimately ensure increased access to critical housing, food, and other social support services.

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NYeC Encourages Consumers to "Mind the App" with New Health Data Privacy Resource

NYeC believes in the power of health information to improve patient care and outcomes. That includes a belief that patients have a right to their own health data, and a right to decide with whom that data is shared.

As mobile health apps become increasingly available, we believe it is vitally important to inform consumers of their rights (and possible risks) related to sharing their health data digitally. Mobile health apps can provide innovative and valuable tools for patients to take control of their own health, care, and the care of their family members.

However, some apps are safer than others! Patients deserve to know that if they share their data with an app, it is likely no longer protected under state and federal privacy law (such as HIPAA), and the app may use their data however it decides — including targeted marketing and selling to third parties.

We have recently created a new, easy to understand educational document to share with patients and consumers who may use mobile health apps. Please feel free to download and share this broadly with individuals and communities to help promote awareness so that everyone can be safe and "mind the app"!

READ MORE AND DOWNLOAD

SHIN-NY Utilized for CMS Event Notification Requirement

The CMS Interoperability & Patient Access Final Rule modifies Conditions of Participation (CoPs) to require hospitals to notify other treating providers when their patients have been hospitalized, transferred, or discharged. In response to this requirement, NYeC undertook efforts to ensure that any hospital in New York State can elect to utilize its connection to the Statewide Health Information Network for New York (SHIN-NY) for this purpose.

Since 2014, the SHIN-NY's QEs have been delivering a set of core services, free of charge or low cost, to participants, including the alerts that CMS will now require. Currently, the SHIN-NY sends out over 10 million valuable alerts to care team members each month.

Additionally, the SHIN-NY connects every hospital in the state with well over 100,000 healthcare professionals statewide. With a few simple steps, hospitals can leverage this existing connection, avoid additional technical investment, and prevent alert duplication and overload for community providers by electing to utilize the network to fulfill this new CMS requirement.

To date, roughly half of New York's hospitals have made the decision to use the SHIN-NY for this purpose. Other interested hospitals are encouraged to contact their Qualified Entity directly to initiate next steps and ensure they are in compliance before the May 1st deadline.

A SHIN-NY New Video from NYeC — Now in Four Languages!

In January, NYeC released the new SHIN-NY 101 video, an animated resource helping to explain the value and importance of the SHIN-NY and HIE in New York State. We are now excited to announce that the video is now available in four languages: English, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese.

We encourage everyone to share these videos widely, so providers and patients across New York State can better understand how HIE can benefit healthcare and patient outcomes. Find all of the translations at the button below.

SHIN-NY VIDEOS

Bronx RHIO and HEALTHeLINK Awarded Federal ONC Funding to Expand COVID-19 Immunization Information Sharing

Bronx RHIO and **HEALTHeLINK** have each been awarded federal funding through from the Strengthening the Technical Advancement and Readiness of Public Health via Health Information Exchange (The STAR HIE Program): Improving COVID-19 Vaccination Data: Connecting Immunization Information Systems (IIS) to Health Information Exchanges from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The Bronx RHIO and HEALTHeLINK projects will focus on increasing data sharing between jurisdictional IIS and health information exchanges (HIEs).

Bronx RHIO will support public health agencies in tracking and identifying patients who need COVID-19 vaccinations in communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19. This includes identifying high-risk patients for vaccination; improving vaccination tracking and administration; monitoring long-term vaccination effects and/or adverse reactions and infections; and measuring the effect of social determinants of health on vaccination patterns.

"The Bronx RHIO is excited to work with ONC on this vital project to assist the City and State Departments of Health in ensuring that vaccines reach those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection, especially in the Bronx," said Kathy Miller, COO, Bronx RHIO.

HEALTHeLINK will develop technologies to evaluate the COVID-19 immunization status for Western New York patients, provide ongoing monitoring of patients who have received the COVID-19 vaccination, and deliver alert notifications to participating providers regarding their patients' immunization status, hospital admissions and COVID-19 test status.

"This project is the next step in COVID-19 response efforts, focusing on immunizations to enable providers and public health partners to more effectively track the vaccination progress and measure vaccination outcomes," said Dan Porreca, Executive Director, HEALTHeLINK."

Introducing Hixny and Health Records on iPhone

For years, Hixny has offered consumers access to their health records through their patient portal — either independently or by functioning as a healthcare provider's official portal. In the time since the patient portal was first developed, consumer technology has been on an exponential trajectory in terms of both capability and user experience. So, Hixny has helped to empower consumers to play an active role in their healthcare by making Hixny patient records available directly within the Health app on iPhone.

The benefits of Hixny information availability through the Health app to patients are evident: improved access to the greatest number of their healthcare records and greater empowerment as a member of their own healthcare team. The benefit for providers is similar: more engaged patients.

Perhaps most importantly, this technology maintains Hixny's commitment to the secure transfer of personal health information. The Health app uses a direct, encrypted connection between the user's iPhone and the healthcare organization, and downloaded health records data is stored on-device and encrypted with the user's iPhone passcode, Touch ID, or Face ID.

LEARN MORE

Healthix: HIE and Data Exchange, Help Care Coordination for the Homeless

Many homeless individuals suffer from co-occurring issues such as mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic medical conditions. When faced with health crises, they often seek care in their closest ER.

Healthix saw this growing public health issue as a need and, receiving a grant to address it, understood how data could be a part of a collaborative solution.

The ability to identify homeless patients fits into a broader effort to provide data on social determinants of health (SDOH). "The problem right now is there isn't a consensus in the industry about how this information should be exchanged between a provider and the HIE." Thomas Moore, SVP Innovation at Healthix. "Many providers serving large Medicaid populations send us SDOH through the recognized PRAPARE standard. We pull the data in using this standard, and make it to available to our participants."

In addition to identifying homeless individuals, Healthix can send alerts to providers if their patients become homeless. These efforts are just a first step in the larger goal to better serve the homeless population in NYC.

READ MORE

HealtheConnections adds ASCVD to myPopHealth for Local Health Departments

HealtheConnections (HeC) has been awarded funds from the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention at the New York State Department of Health, to expand the myPopHealth application for Local Health Departments (LHDs).

The myPopHealth application offers unique value for public health partners. Unlike most sources of population level data, the HIE data included in myPopHealth reflect a recent time period (the past two years). The myPopHealth application is updated with new data on a weekly basis, making it possible to evaluate interventions closer to when they occur and better make data-informed decisions. HIE-based prevalence estimates, which are based on diagnoses and clinical measurement, have the added benefit of including both diagnosed and undiagnosed disease, offering a more complete view of prevalence in the population.

HealtheConnections is dedicated to leveraging its broad, diverse set of health information exchange data to support our regions' LHDs and the New York State Department of Health in their work to monitor, help manage, and prevent chronic disease within our communities.

LEARN MORE

Rochester RHIO CEO to Retire in August

Jill Eisenstein, President and CEO of Rochester RHIO, announced her plans to retire from the organization at the end of August. A national search has begun for her successor to allow for a seamless leadership transition. Eisenstein has been instrumental in the RHIO's success for the past 15 years, and is one of the original founding members of the organization. She became CEO in 2015.

"It's hard to convey how much we admire Jill's insights and abilities to steer the (Rochester) RHIO through the complexities associated with health information exchange. Thanks to her leadership, we have a deeply experienced management team and staff, outstanding infrastructure, committed funding, and a veteran board of directors — momentum that will continue," said Ann Marie Cook, Chairperson of the Rochester RHIO Board of Directors.

"Rochester RHIO's evolution has been remarkable. Never could I have imagined the advanced technologies we've developed, the services we've created, the thousands of care givers we reach and our ability to better the lives of 1.5 million residents across the Greater Finger Lakes Region and beyond," said Eisenstein.

Eisenstein was also recently nominated for the 2021 *Rochester Business Journal's* Power 100 List.

READ MORE

Prepare Now for Condensed PY2021

April 1st, 2021, Providers Can Begin Attesting in MEIPASS

- The soft-opening provides ample time to participants submitting their attestations during a shortened PY 2021 timeline. To give every provider a chance to participate, the soft-opening period functions on a rolling basis. This means that providers can attest as soon as they have:

  – Met all program metrics
  – Identified an MPV Reporting Period
  – Completed EHR & eCQM Reporting
  – Have no outstanding payments due

MPV Pre-Validations Accepted Through June 11th

- MPV pre-validation is not required to attest but it is strongly recommended to avoid remediation. For PY 2021, providers will only be able to submit MPV calculations using the "previous calendar year" method. Please utilize the following links to get started!

INDIVIDUAL MPV **GROUP MPV**

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

PY 2021 Security Risk Assessment Overview

Date: Thursday, April 22 at 1:00 pm

Description: We will discuss what constitutes, or defines, a security risk analysis, the importance of identifying and mitigating risks, implementing a security risk assessment plan and, we will **review the SRA changes for PY2021 and how to apply them in MEIPASS**.

REGISTER TODAY

Health Information Exchange Success for PY 2021 and Beyond

Date: Wednesday, May 12 at 11:00 am

Description: We will be taking an in-depth look at objective 7 Health Information Exchange, highlighting tips and tricks for successfully passing the objective. Then we'll review the role Health Information Exchange plays beyond the NY Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

REGISTER TODAY

For FREE PY 2021 Attestation support or for more information, please contact us at **ep2info@nyehealth.org**.

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