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Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance

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Summer is almost here! We've had a good year so far and have almost \$2.8 million in savings. Our goal is \$6.6 million and we're working hard to achieve this stretch goal. There are currently 25 teams involved in a variety of quality, educational, performance improvement, revenue enhancement and cost savings initiatives. We currently have 63 contracts and our goal for 2008 is 70. New Corporate Express, UPS, LogiQuip, Medline Distribution, Triose (shipping management), Amerinet (secondary GPO), Position Manager, Ross Products and Cleverly and Associates contracts have recently been signed. Several new initiatives are underway that we'll report to you next newsletter.

We'd like to welcome Mr. Henry Hawthorne, President of Columbus Regional Healthcare System to the CCHA Board. Mr. Hawthorne started his administrative duties in March and



has worked in the area during a previous assignment. We would like to thank Mr. Bill Clark for his years of service and support of our Alliance and wish him well in his new role as the Columbus County Manager.

Mr. Colin O'Sullivan has left the Alliance for another career opportunity. We wish Colin well and want to also thank him for his years of service. We are currently interviewing candidates and the CCHA staff has picked up his duties in the interim.

Please mark your calendars for Alliance Day on November 7, 2008 at the Country Club at Landfall. Our program this year will be very educational

and entertaining. Our keynote speaker this year is a practicing orthopedic surgeon, author, consultant, singer and world class lecturer. Dr. Dunaway is the President of Healthcare Value Inc. and has a passion for quality patient care and organizational excellence. You don't want to miss his presentation. We expect a large vendor (strategic partner) group and turn out for this informative and relaxing day. Please plan to join us.

Thank you, again for your support in making our Alliance one of the best in the country. Your dedication and commitment to CCHA is greatly appreciated. Let us know if you have suggestions or comments. Our toll free number is 877-332-8012.

Have a good summer !

Larry Matheny

HIM/Coding



This team has started an initiative to help reduce the shortage of Medical Transcriptionists throughout the region. A sub-committee has been developed to include HIM / CIO / CFO representation. This sub-committee will make recommendations on selecting a Medical Transcription (MT) vendor for an immediate reduction

in costs to outsourced MT services as well as evaluate a MT Employee Pool for CCHA.

The team has started a collaborative effort with the CFO team and the local Community Colleges to determine how best to recruit, train and retain Medical Transcriptionist.

One possible solution is to offer a mentoring service to bridge the gap between graduation and actually starting work at the hospital to ensure the transcriptionist is up-to-speed and ready to "hit the ground running" when they start working. We hope to promote goodwill in our communities by reducing unemployment.

Physician Recruiters



Planning for the 2008 Resident's Reception is underway and the date is set for Tuesday, October 7th. The 2007 reception was a huge success with approximately 30 Residents in attendance. We appreciate them taking time out of their busy schedule to

learn more about employment opportunities within the Alliance region.

The reception will be held at the Landfall Country Club again this year. We hope to expand that number by reaching out to the

Southern Regional AHEC, in Fayetteville, as well as the Eastern AHEC, and Brody School of Medicine, in Greenville. We will extend our invitation to them and possibly hold a reception in their area.

Please watch the website for more details.

Education Directors



Leadership Management Academy

This team successfully organized and put on the Leadership-Management Academy March 27-28th. Nearly fifty hospital Leaders within CCHA received two full days of leadership-management training.

300 hours of CEU's were given out for this education opportunity.

If you missed this GREAT opportunity, don't worry the next scheduled Leadership-

Management Academy is already planned for August 28-29. Contact your Education Director if you are interested in registering.

Materials Directors

The Materials Director's Team has recently signed an agreement with Triose, a 3rd Party Freight Management company. This new Business Partner has a history of lowering freight costs by 20%. Several CCHA members have joined the agreement and are implementing the program during the months of April and May.



**LogiQuip
Healthcare**

The team also signed an agreement with LogiQuip, a Healthcare Storage Solutions company. This new Business Partner's mission is to solve storage and distribution issues with the best products and designs possible. Many of the CCHA hospitals are in the middle of construction and are utilizing this new partner.



2008 Nurse Leadership Conference a Success

On February 15, 2008 Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance held the 4th Annual Nurse Leadership Conference at the Courtyard Marriott Carolina Beach, N.C. Since the conferences inception in 2005, its mission has been to serve as a forum for today's and tomorrow's nurse leaders of CCHA to interact, exchange ideas, and learn about pertinent issues facing the nursing profession.

This year's conference titled, *"Developing a Just Culture: Patient Safety Concepts and Action"*, satisfied that mission. Sponsored by the Chief Nursing Team and McNeary, Inc.; this year's conference drew its biggest audience ever. Limited to 100 nurses, this year's conference had 95 people register and 76 people in atten-

dance. Those in attendance learned how to develop and maintain a Just Culture in their respective organizations from Michelle Hoppes, Chief Executive Officer of Patient Safety and Risk Solutions, Inc.

All those in attendance received 4.92 Education Contact Hours and judging from the evaluations found the conference to be worthwhile. Of the survey respondents, 99% rated the conference Excellent or Good.

CCHA applauds the Chief Nursing Team for putting on such a great conference year after year; we cannot wait to see what 2009 has in store.



Educational Events

Professional Human Resources and Senior Professional Human Resources (PHR/SPHR) prep classes started in March 2008 and concluded in April 2008. This prep class will get the HR professionals ready to take the exam and earn this credential.

Congratulations to the following folks that completed this prep class:

Durham White, Southeastern Regional Medical Center

Teresa Pougnaud, Loris Healthcare System

Ann Locklear, Scotland Healthcare System

Ginger Scott, Columbus Regional Healthcare System

Tracie Allen, Columbus Regional Healthcare System

Deborah Dallas, Columbus Regional Healthcare System

Pansy Chase, Duplin General Hospital

Charlotte Johnson, Pender Memorial Hospital

Free Educational Sessions:

- **Behavioral Restraints in the Acute Care Setting**

Come and learn how behavioral restraints affect patient safety!

When: Tuesday, May 27th

Where: Southeastern Regional Medical Center

- **The Emergency Medical Treatment & Medical Act (EMTALA)**

When: Date: Friday, May 30, 2008

Where: Wilmington, NC Cape Fear Hospital
Conference Room Building C

Cont'd Free Educational Sessions:

- **Reducing the Risk of Transmission of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus**

Come and learn how these MRSA Topics affect your hospital!!!

When: Date: Thursday, June 26, 2008

Where: Southeastern Regional Medical Center



FREE

Other News

Congratulations!

New Addition to CCHA

The staff of Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance got its youngest addition at 7:00 am February 26, 2008. Aaron Christopher Smith was born to Michael Smith of the Alliance and his wife Shauna. Aaron was 19 inches long and weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces. Mom and baby are well and Michael is enjoying his new little boy.



Ms. Chernelle Hill – Summer Intern

Would you join us in welcoming Ms. Chernelle Hill as our summer intern for 2008. Chernelle is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health in May 2009. She will be starting her twelve week internship on May 19, 2008 and working on a variety of projects and special assignments. It is our goal to get her into all member hospitals and attend each of our team meetings.

Chernelle is a resident of Fayetteville, North Carolina and is active in community service groups and volunteers for the Continuous Quality Improvement Department at the University of North Carolina Health-care System in Chapel Hill. We are looking forward to Ms. Hill's time with us and know that it will be a good learning experience for her.

Planning Has Started for the 2009 Educational Offerings – Please Save-the-Dates:

Medicare Boot Camp One Day Intensive Update

February 10, 2009

Charge Master Review

February 11 & 12, 2009