

CCH&JER

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President's Report

It's hard to believe that we are into February of the new year already! We are off to a good start and this quarter's newsletter is a reflection of all of the hard work that our teams and staff have put into expanding our programs, contracts and services.

We have come together with the common purpose of delivering the most efficient and best services to our pa-

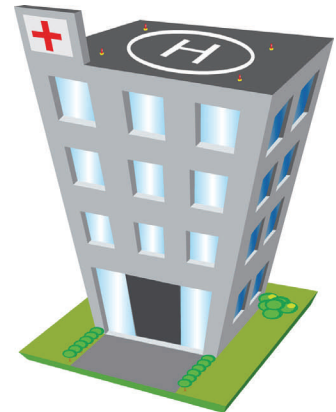
tients. By working together we are sharing best practices and improving the quality of life for those that we serve.

As you read this newsletter, you'll see that our teams have been instrumental in helping our hospitals achieve savings and success in the areas of education, emergency preparedness, community education and wellness. We are starting initiatives to do clini-

cal training through a mobile simulation laboratory, medical staff and leadership training and a sexual assault nurse examiners program.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in CCHA.

Larry Matheny



Upcoming Events

Medicare Boot Camp – February 11th (contact Yvonne Hughes @ yhughes@coastalalliance.org)

Chargemaster – February 12th & 13th (contact Yvonne Hughes @ yhughes@coastalalliance.org)

Legislative Dinner – February 18th

Nurse Leadership – March 27th (contact Michael Smith @ msmith@coastalalliance.org)



Confidentiality

As a valued member of the Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance team, you have access to sensitive and confidential information. Most of our strategic partners require that the terms and details of our agreement(s) remain confidential. When this information is shared outside our Alliance, it puts us at a competitive disadvantage and can jeopardize

our relationship with our vendors.

CCHA has a confidentiality statement that the staff and each team member is to sign that states that we will not discuss or share private and confidential information with another party or entity outside of our Alliance at any time. Please do not share sensitive

information outside our membership. Please contact the CCHA staff if you have questions or would like to refer a potential vendor or new member to our group.

Thank you for your continued support and for keeping our sensitive information within the alliance.

Larry Matheny



“She has been a valued member of our staff and we will miss her greatly.”

Thank You For Your Faithful Service

Ms. Gretchen Bodinsky has announced that she will retire from her Clinical Healthcare Consulting role with the Alliance at the end of February 2009. Gretchen started her nursing career as a staff nurse with the United States Army Nurse Corps and advanced to the Director of Nursing with Rex Healthcare before retiring (the first time) in 1999.

part time coordinating many of our nursing related teams. She has been a valued member of our staff and we will miss her greatly. Gretchen’s husband, Steve retired several years ago and they would like to spend more time with their son and grandchildren in Colorado.

years of dedicated service to the nursing profession and to the Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance.

Larry Matheny

We want to wish Gretchen the very best and thank her for her



Gretchen joined the Alliance in April 2001 and has worked

North Carolina Health Foods Initiative

The Community Health Team has asked the Food Service Directors Team to join them in an effort to promote “North Carolina Health Foods Initiative”. The meeting has been set for March 12, 2009 at Brunswick Community College – Leland at 10 am.

North Carolina Prevention Partners is helping hospitals statewide to establish quit-tobacco systems and healthier food policies to make NC hospitals even healthier for employees, patients and visitors. NC Prevention Partners is funded by The Duke Endowment and is in partnership with the NC Hospital Association’s Foundation. You can read

more about NC Prevention Partners by going to

www.ncpreventionpartners.org/hospitals

Two out of three NC adults are overweight or obese, and youth obesity rates are the 5th worst in the nation. Hospitals are in a great position to help, as they serve more than 500,000 meals to employees and visitors every week. Recent studies show that most people think there are far fewer calories in prepared foods than there really are – by an average of 600 calories. Furthermore, when calorie information is given at the point of selection, consumers are much more likely to choose lower calorie items.

NC Prevention Partners can help hospitals create a plan to make health foods more available, visible and affordable.

Your hospital can make it easier for staff and visitors to choose health foods by increasing access to healthy foods, lowering the cost of healthy foods, showing off your healthy foods, and labeling calories.

Please make sure your hospital is represented at this meeting. If you have any question, please contact Anne Butzen at (919) 969-7022, ext. 218 or anne@ncpreventionpartners.org

Doug Yarbrough



Congratulations Yvonne!

In December Mrs. Yvonne Hughes put on her cap and gown and marched across the stage in Trask Coliseum at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Yvonne completed her Master’s degree in Public Administration

and finished the program with a 4.0 GPA. We are proud of her accomplishments and contributions to CCHA and the community.

Angela Wood



CARES Ramping Up

On November 7, 2008 Coastal Carolinas Health Alliance announced that after nearly four years, the Carolina Amateur Radio Emergency Service was on the air. While being a major accomplishment, the work had only just begun. Now that the emergency communication system is in place the task at hand is to train hospital employees on the use of the system and make CARES a part of each facility's disaster planning efforts.

The Executive Committee's goal is to have the system fully operational and ready for use by **Monday June 1, 2009**. Up to this point the CARES Executive Committee is making great pro-

gress toward that goal. Since the November 7th announcement, twenty-five (25) hospital employees have become licensed to use the CARES system in an emergency. This number has far exceeded our expectations. However there is still work to be done, some of our hospitals are still without licensed operators and many of those licensed have yet to have the opportunity to get on the air and practice using the system. In order to ensure we reach our goal of at least three licensed operators in each participating facility, CCHA will be holding the next CARES licensing class on:

* March 21 & 28 at Columbus Regional Hospital in Whiteville,

NC. The classes are from 8 to 1 and attendance during both sessions is required to obtain your license.

* To get on-air training, CCHA will be holding the first of five (5) to six (6) an on air practice sessions on February 20, 2009.

If you or any of your staff persons would like more information on these very important events, please contact Michael Smith at (910)332-8014 or msmith@coastalalliance.org.

Michael Smith

Mission

To provide value to its members by facilitating improvement of quality and delivery of healthcare and achieving operational efficiencies through collaborate efforts.

Vision

To be the preeminent hospital network characterized by collaboration, sustained strength of member hospitals, and a focus on local and regional healthcare issues.



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