

December 21, 2017



COMMUNITY CARE
OF
BROOKLYN

NEWSLETTER

Dear Colleagues –



In this newsletter, you will find:

- [Our early successes working with substance use peers](#)
- [CCB featured at NYSHealth's annual Population Health Summit](#)
- [FAQ regarding a workforce survey coming your way in January](#)
- [A reminder about MIPS reporting](#)
- [A big congratulations to our seventh cohort of health coach graduates](#)
- [Partner Spotlight with Gary Butchen, President/CEO of Bridge Back to Life](#)
- [Upcoming events and trainings!](#)

CCB Supporting the Employment of Recovery Peers at Brooklyn Practices

CCB is providing financial support to Bridge Back to Life for OASAS-certified peers to partner with Brooklyn providers and better serve patients with SUD.

CCB has partnered with Bridge Back to Life to pair [Certified Recovery Peer Advocates](#) (CRPAs, or "peers") with our partners. CCB has provided Bridge financial support to employ peers and place them at specific sites in Brooklyn with the goal of connecting more patients with substance use disorder (SUD) to treatment and continuing to engage them throughout rehabilitation to reduce their need of hospital services and encourage full recovery.

Having recovered from various forms of SUD themselves, peers have experience navigating the healthcare system and enduring detox and rehabilitation. This unique expertise, coupled with training from SUNY Downstate and certification approved by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), enables peers to connect with patients in a different way than clinical staff. Many patients who have previously declined other forms of treatment have agreed to meet with a peer, who is available on-site at the

time of their visit. After meeting with a patient, the peer can refer them to a treatment facility often for a same-day appointment—but their work doesn't end there. Peers develop relationships with these patients and are available to them even after they are discharged to help develop and self-monitor recovery plans and learn effective coping skills. They can also accompany patients to court or other meetings or events.

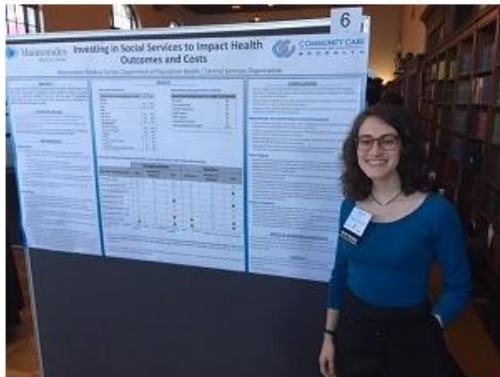
Peers began working on-site at Maimonides Medical Center in August and have been engaging an average of more than 50 patients each month. CCB will soon be deploying peers at Interfaith Medical Center, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, select primary care practices, and inpatient rehabilitation centers.

To learn more about Bridge Back to Life or peers, see a Q&A with Bridge's President and CEO, Gary Butchen in our [Partner Spotlight](#) below.

Study on Investing in Social Services to Impact Health Incomes and Costs featured at NYSHealth Population Health Summit

Important research on social determinants of health was presented by a member of our DSRIP team at an annual population health conference attended by many leaders in the field.

Findings from a recent study on the impact of social services on healthcare utilization and costs were shared at the [Population Health Summit](#) on December 11th. The Summit was sponsored in part by The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth), which also funded the study.



Rachel Leep, Manager of Health and Social Services Analysis and Modeling in support of our DSRIP efforts, presented a poster sharing the results of the study at the event (left), which garnered significant interest, given the field's focus on addressing social determinants of health. The poster also featured an overview of CCB's expansion of an existing legal clinic model to provide patients with legal assistance services in partnership with the New York Legal Assistance Group. The event provided an exciting opportunity to share findings with other colleagues in New York who are driving a variety of statewide population health initiatives and are engaged in collaborations between health care and social service sectors.

To learn more about the study, please see our [September newsletter](#).

2017 Workforce Compensation and Benefits Survey

Partners should complete the upcoming Workforce Survey to fulfill a DSRIP requirement AND become eligible for a bonus payment.

Analyses related to workforce composition, compensation, and benefits are required under the DSRIP program. CCB conducted a baseline survey in 2015 and will be conducting our next required survey in January 2018. For this survey, we have partnered with two other downstate PPS—OneCity Health (the NYC Health + Hospitals PPS) and the NYU Langone PPS—and with BDO Consulting to develop the survey, aggregate the responses, and ensure compliance with anti-trust regulations. We conducted an initial round of outreach to partners earlier this month to identify the best contact to complete the survey at each organization. In January, these identified contacts will receive an email with the survey from BDO Consulting to be completed and returned to BDO no later than February 23, 2018. **Participant organizations that complete this Workforce Survey will be eligible for a bonus payment.** For more information, [click here to download our FAQ document](#).

Reminder: Reporting due by 12/31/17 to Avoid MIPS Medicare Payment Reduction

Reporting one quality measure for one patient by the end of this year will avoid any reduction in Medicare Part B payments in 2019.

As discussed in our [October newsletter](#), Medicare payment adjustments under the Merit-Based Incentive Program (MIPS) will begin in 2019, based on performance of eligible clinicians [this year](#) (2017). While there are opportunities to earn bonuses with additional reporting, **payment reductions can be avoided by reporting one of the eligible quality measures for one Medicare patient by the end of December.** While action must be taken before the end of the year, you aren't required to submit any data to CMS until March 31, 2018.

Click [here](#) to see if you are required to participate in MIPS.

While focused on Medicare payments, key elements of the Quality Payment Program align with the goals of the DSRIP program. It supports participation in value-based payment models, measures and improves the quality of care, focuses on containing costs, improves information exchange, and emphasizes clinical practice improvement activities. For more information on the Quality Payment Program, please see CMS Quality Payment Program website [here](#). ***We have been in touch with IPRO, CMS's technical assistance vendor, about providing additional technical assistance on MIPS reporting and selection of measures. If you are interested in these services, you can contact IPRO through [this link](#).***

Graduation of our Seventh Health Coach Cohort

Congrats grads!

We'd like to congratulate our seventh cohort of graduates from the Health Coach training program! Partners are able to send staff to the program, which is run through CUNY Kingsborough Community College and funded by CCB. Graduates from the program receive 6 undergraduate credits, and a certificate in health coaching.

Pictured here is one of the graduates, Maruea Begun, with her certificate, along with (left to right) Nancy Nemorin of CUNY Kingsborough, Jack Bliamptis of CCB, Constantine Checa-Gerena of VNSNY, and Victoria Bershtat of CUNY Kingsborough.

CCB has developed its Health Coaching program to facilitate its primary care initiatives. Health Coaches are Medical Assistants or equivalent-level staff who receive additional training in chronic disease management and motivational interviewing. Health Coaches currently work in a range of practice settings, including hospital-based clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and community-based pediatric and adult clinics.



CCB Partner Spotlight:



This is an abridged version of a Q&A with Gary Butchen, President and CEO of Bridge Back to Life. For the full text, click [here](#).

CCB: Tell us about Bridge Back to Life. Who does it serve and how have those services evolved?

Butchen: *Bridge Back to Life started 30 years ago and has grown into a network of outpatient chemical dependency programs with offices throughout the Boroughs and Long Island. We've evolved very fluidly, monitoring the trends in chemical dependency services and developing programming to reach as many community members as we possibly can...Bridge has been able to see the issues that impact each community that we're in and move in the direction that would be most helpful to the most people in those areas.*

CCB: What makes Bridge the right organization to manage the effort to partner peers with health care provider sites?

Butchen: *Bridge has had strategic partnerships with a variety of health care practices over the decades. While a lot of providers seemed nervous in the face of DSRIP's ambitious goals at first, we looked at it as a momentum shift in health care...We agreed to partner with the Maimonides PPS (CCB) because we had already been working with Maimonides for the better part of 30 years. Bridge has longstanding relationships—not just with detox and rehab programs—but with large medical practices, with FQHCs, with adult homes, the shelter system—wherever people tend to congregate and end up having issues of chemical dependency.*



CCB: Tell us more about what the peers do. How is their contribution unique?

Butchen: *When someone enters the Maimonides ED and has a SUD problem, either the ED doctor, the triage nurse, or the social work department will coordinate to have a peer come meet with the individual to talk to them about appropriate chemical dependency treatment—not at Bridge Back to Life, necessarily, but at any OASAS-certified program. The goal is to get the patient the appropriate treatment for their needs and in turn, stop using the ED for routine or behavioral health services. The peers have been able to contribute in a unique manner because they have been through these life experiences themselves. For the most part, they have all been through long-term recovery...*

We're excited to begin our work with peers at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and Interfaith Medical Center in the coming months. The peers at Maimonides have really been woven into the fabric of the facility quickly and seamlessly...When we put the peers in the ED on August 15, almost 10 patients were referred to them right away...At the four-month mark this month, the peers have worked with over 225. Unfortunately not all of those individuals accepted services or referrals, but a vast majority of them did, and preliminary data we're collecting suggests that the peers may be impacting the reduction of readmission rates in the Maimonides ED.

CCB: Can you share any success stories related to the work with the peers so far?

Butchen: *We've already had dozens of cases where patients have accepted referrals to detox, successfully transitioned to inpatient rehab, and then reengaged into community mental health facilities (including Bridge Back to Life) where they still attend treatment...We follow up with every patient that the peers see—even if they did not engage in a program at the time—just to see if they need or want services...and they've been remarkably successful just because it's a more humane way of encouraging people to access care and reduce the stigma of chemical dependency.*

UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAININGS

SAVE THE DATE:

CCB Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting:
“CCB 2.0: THE FUTURE IS NOW”
with keynote address by Jason Helgeson, NYS Medicaid Director

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
5:00-7:00 PM
Forchelli Conference Center at Brooklyn Law School
205 State St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

The PAC is open to representatives from CCB Participant organizations. The program for the evening includes updates on the transition to value-based payment (VBP) and sustainability planning. If you haven't already, please RSVP through the link below by Wednesday, December 27.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Events:

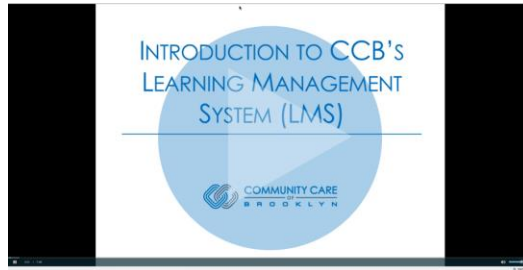
- **Additional NYC Value-based Payment (VBP) Bootcamp: January 9, 2018, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at New York Academy of Medicine (1216 5th Ave., New York, NY).** Registration is now OPEN on a first come, first served basis. The DOH has asked that organizations limit participants to no more than four. Register [here](#). Feel free to send all questions regarding the event to VBP@health.ny.gov.

Online Trainings:

(Available anywhere, anytime! Completion of courses and post-tests may qualify users for CME or CEU credits)

- Anorexia and Weight Loss
- Anxiety Disorders
- Assessment and Management of Fatigue
- Depression and Suicidality
- Dyspnea Management
- Goals Discussion and Advance Care Planning
- Indications and Use of Medical Cannabis
- Nutritional Issues in Palliative Care
- Prognostication in Chronic Illness
- Thrombosis and Bleeding Complications
- Understanding and Using the Hospice Benefit
- Nursing Workshop I, II, & III (“Structures and Processes of Care,” “Assessment and Management,” & “A Key Outcome of Advance Care Planning”)
- Opioid Therapy (“Managing Opioid Side Effects,” “Managing the Risk of Substance Use,” & “Optimizing Analgesic Outcomes”)
- Social Work Workshop I, II, & III (“Structures and Processes of Care,” “Symptom Assessment and Management,” & “Communication in Palliative Care”)

Our list of CME-eligible online courses is getting longer all the time! [Log in to CCB's Online Resource Portal](#) now to peruse classes on palliative care, opioid therapy, social work and nursing workshops, and more! Click the video below to learn how to take full advantage of the platform.



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www.CCBrooklyn.org (718) 355-9693 support@CCBrooklyn.org