March, 2022

**Dear All,**

1. Still waiting issues

 **$250,000 money allocated from the Federal COVID funds**

**The $9000+ appropriation funds.** Many clinics have all returned the required paperwork and still no money.

 I will let you know the minute I hear anything on these issues. If anyone has more information, please contact me and I will send it out to all of the clinics.

1. **Michigan Rehabilitation Services**

How many clinics are using MRS as a great resource for your patients? Did you know that some dental, ophthalmology, mobility aids and a lot more services can be gotten for your patients through MRS? YES!  *The hook is that whatever your patient needs MUST by directly related to maintaining employment or actively searching for employment.* The application forms are not arduous – standard information: pay stub, budget form, tax return, etc. **AND** a statement by a physician of how this assistance will help him maintain his employment.

I attended a presentation that a MRS Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor held for Malta Medical and Dental Services and learned so much.

IF this is of interest and you have some patients that very probably can benefit, contact Tracy Boatmon, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Michigan Rehabilitation Services at 313-348-7877 or boatmont@michigan.gov. She is out of the Monroe County office but will definitely answer questions and can either specifically assist or send you to the VRC for your area. We are setting up a webinar with Tracy. As soon as that is finalized, I will send out an email.

1. **Gentle Reminders**

 **FCOM Membership Renewal**

I have attached the application to this update. *Renewal or first time joining is due by March 31.*

The **Clinic Data Survey** was sent out by Jeff Compagner late last week. It is in a Constant Contact survey form format and *due March 15*. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THAT EMAIL CONTACT JEFF AT JCOMPAGNER@HFHCLINIC.ORG. He will get it to you promptly.

1. **Annual Meeting and Conference, May 13, Friday 9:00 – 12:30 –virtual**

Mark the date in your calendars. I will send out the first of many reminders with the log in attached.

The **meeting packets will go out the week of May 2.** As last year, FCOM members will have to read through the packet and return the Proxy Vote sheet to me by May 11 if they cannot attend the meeting.

I am happy to say that **Nicole Lameroux, President and CEO of National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics** will be our lead off speaker. As you saw in the NAFC March note from Nicole, this has been a spectacular year for our clinics at national level.

**Jeff Compagner**, ED Holland Free Clinics will present the **data from the clinic surveys** that I hope you have sent in already ☺

And two more presentations not yet final. I will let you know the full schedule as soon as it is in place.

1. **Quality Standards Webinar and discussion and date for the next QS walk through**

On Feb. 17 and March 10, I held Quality Standards Survey discussion and walk-throughs.

The consensus is this is not difficult but first time through will probably take an hour to complete because you are noting where you have the documents and if it would be easier to compile the information in a different way to make retrieving the information easier. Another note is that this will not be required for this year from n0n-NAFC members. These walk-throughs have been invaluable and edits/re-writes are needed. Next year then will be the first year this is required from non-NAFC members.

The next QS webinar and walk through is scheduled for **March 24, Thursday, 10 – 11 am** for NON-NAFC members only.

1. **Governor’s General Omnibus 2023 – 2034 Budget Proposal**

I sent out a list of some other appropriations from the proposal that I saw as free and charitable clinic interest. Thank you for the feedback! I will definitely keep an eye on the dental reimbursement changes/ pre-natal care/medication and pharmacy issues. As I said in the email, if I need information for the legislators, I may get in touch with you.

I hope you saw the 2/24/22 Det. Free Press – Governor Whitmer Signs Bills on Prescription Regulations. Hopefully all of us will see a welcome change in the cost of prescriptions.

1. **Region Surveys**

Last month we sent out a region survey to the North, Southeast, Southwest and Mideast regions asking for evaluation of everything from the time and dates of the meetings to content. We have received a few back. We are definitely still going to provide a monthly meeting time for clinics to get together to discuss and network. Looking at other states, the majority have a regularly scheduled monthly meeting with any person or clinic submitting agenda topics. We are going to begin doing that.

1. **MI HHS language**

I sent out the MIHHS grant proposal announcement regarding behavioral services for the pediatric population one, to make you aware of the proposal and the second which I highlighted is the list of organizations that can apply and you say the wording: “other healthcare and social services organization qualified to treat….”. Our clinics that do behavioral work with pediatrics CAN APPLY. As I said, we are working to have the words “free and charitable clinics” listed as they do FQHCs, Rural Health, etc. but this is a good beginning. Slowly our work is being recognized at state level. Smile!

A general question for the month: In the last year, how did you show appreciation to your volunteers?

Stay safe, stay well. Enjoy the first hint of Spring.



Board President

313-520-2657 – cell

 **Assistance for all clinics within FCOM ….simply call or email.**

 Barb Saul Quality Standards assistance to any clinic **blsaul2@aol.com**

 Carolyn Barr FTCA submission paperwork **cbarr240@comcast.net**

 Christine Rainey Pharmacy/dispensary or medications **crainey@ferncare.org**

 Ann Heler Clinic operation difficulties/issues/questions **admin@fcomi.org**