MONTHLY UPDATE October, 2022

**Dear All,**

1. **NAFC Conference Report Oct. 24/25 Indianapolis**

Great conference and great weather! For me, it was good to see the other state directors in person after so long on ZOOM. I believe we had 8 member clinics there. The whole conference was recorded and very shortly it will be uploaded to the NAFC website. I hope that a lot of you were able to watch virtually. I strongly recommend both the update from Julie Darnell – **Don’t Let Perfect be the Enemy of Good: Early Results from Roadmap to Health Equity**: **A Proof of Concept for a Custom National Data Repository of Quality Measures for Free and Charitable Clinics.** This will allow us to compare our clinic medical data on certain measures with other organizations, CDC, FQHCs for example. And the second **So How Much Is It?** A valuation survey that will allow us to demonstrate the savings our clinics provide to our communities.

1. **BCBSM Symposium Report October 13 Lansing**

Once again it was good to see everyone from other organizations. A couple of things from the presentations for all of us to think about: (1) Other than the health department or ER, do you have a low cost provider for someone who for whatever reason is not able to become your patient? (2) Are you a major resource/referral source or one of the major resources for your community? I ask that because I don’t want you to forget that this is one of our contributions to healthcare in our communities. We are the “ call the free clinic, they will know who to call”.

1. **LARA accepts the waiver language for written prescriptions for controlled and non-controlled medications**. The waiver is required after January 1, 2023. I sent an email with the waiver language and the waiver form for prescribers.

If you did not see the email, email me and I will send it to you.

1. **Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program Did you know about this?**

“Loan repayment is available to Registered Nurses (RN) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) working …”free and charitable clinics”

Yes. Many clinics have been able to offer this to RNs and in turn the clinics have a 2 year commitment from the RNs. I have attached the informational flyer with full contact information.

1. **Quality Standards Survey for 2023. NEW INFORMATION** After talking to Ariana Gordillo at NAFC, Ariana offered to send out their QS survey, score and report the QS results back to ALL of our individual clinics and to our office. They want our clinic data as badly as we do.

The survey will be sent to all of the clinics from NAFC in the first two weeks of January and due back to NAFC by March 31. More detailed information to come.

 This is very good news….helpful to NAFC and to us. Also just a simple reminder completing this survey and the Clinic Data survey are musts to continue FCOM membership.

1. **Legislative Issues**

**House Bill 4346** – **Insulin Co-Pay Cap** \* This is for everyone, not just Medicare enrollees. No meetings on this issue until at least December.

**House bill 6112** – **Legislature to form a committee to review going from a federally based health insurance exchange to a state based insurance exchange** \*The argument is cost but many legislators are looking into this to look at coverage vulnerability. No meetings on this bill until at least December

**++++ Senate Bill 1135** was adopted by the Senate Health Policy Committee with recommendation to the legislature to pass the bill. If passed, telehealth will continue to be covered by Medicaid. I will keep an eye on this.

**HHS Public Hearing - Healthy Michigan extension to December 2028.**  HHS held a public hearing for comments regarding extending HM. We supported the extension. The comments from all over the state overwhelmingly supported the extension.

If you see any or hear of any legislation introduced in Michigan you feel impacts our patients or out clinics, please let me know. I will certainly investigate the bill’s language and talk to the representatives and senators that introduced this bill.

1. **Region Meetings Calenda**r

NOTE Regions are meeting every other month now, not every month.

 **The Southwest and Southeast Regions** **meet every other month on the second Tuesday. Southwest 10:30-11:30, Southeast 1-2pm.**

**The North and Mideast meet every other month on the third Tuesday.**

**Mideast 10:30-11:30, North 1-2pm**

The 4 DECEMBER regional meetings are: December 13 SW at 10:30 SE at 1pm

 December 20 ME at 10:30 N at 1pm

The new ZOOM log-ins will be out shortly.

The Midwest Region as I have said before, meet about quarterly and have done so for quite a few years. If you are in the Midwest region, contact Jeff Compagner jcompagner@hfhclinic.org. He will gladly add you to their clinic list.

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