

**HEALTH ADVANCEMENT
COLLABORATIVE**
of Central New York

**Central New York Health
Systems Agency**
CNYHSA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 22, 2010

The Health Advancement Collaborative of Central New York (HAC-CNY) and the Central New York Health System Agency (CNYHSA) today announced the launch of a collaboration supported by over \$1 million in State, foundation and corporate grants. The collaboration will bring together the complementary strengths of both organizations under a formal structure to create a sustainable community health planning capacity for Central New York.

A \$115,000 grant from the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York (CHFWCNY) and \$35,000 contribution from Excellus BlueCross Blue Shield will underwrite the costs of the consolidation process. An additional \$1 million grant under New York State's Health Care Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers Grant Program (HEAL NY) provides funds over two years to build the infrastructure for the collaboration and conduct three studies. The studies will focus on unnecessary emergency room use, the need and demand for long term care services, and the identification of future priorities based on a comprehensive assessment of regional health and health service needs.

"Consolidating HAC-CNY's and CNYHSA's health planning activities is the right and responsible thing to do," stated Eric Hunt, HAC-CNY's President. "The collaboration builds on HAC-CNY's success with HealthConnections, CNY's Regional Health Information Organization, and CNYHSA's 30+ year history as the designated community health planning resource for the region."

The collaboration will be the first in the State to bring together health planning and the operation of a RHIO; creating the opportunity for synergies such as integrating RHIO clinical data into health studies and identifying technology solutions that can improve the efficiency of, and access to, community services .

"We commend New York State for its commitment to revitalizing local health planning in Central New York and across the State," stated William Conole, President of the CNYHSA Board. "Their investment along with generous grants from CHFWCNY and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield will yield returns for our community in the form of improved population health and optimal use of our health care resources."

The collaboration is being overseen by a Joint Task Force of HAC-CNY and CNYHSA board members and community leaders which met for the first time on Monday. A list of members appears on the next page.

Members, Joint Task Force on Collaboration

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| Eric Hunt, Co-Chair | Vice President, CIO, Welch Allyn |
| William Conole, Co-Chair | Administrator, Crouse Community Center |
| Joe Augustine, MD | CNY Family Care |
| Ruben Cowart, DDS | President/CEO, Syracuse Community Health Center |
| George Chapman | Principal, GW Chapman Consulting |
| Catherine Hanover | Vice-President, St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Utica |
| David Johnson | Partner, King & King Architects |
| Richard Kazel | Manager, Medical/Surgical Services, Syracuse VA Medical Center |
| Orrin MacMurray | Chair, C&S Companies |
| Anne Messenger | President, Messenger Associates |
| Cynthia Morrow, MD | Commissioner, Onondaga County Health Department |
| Tom Quinn | President and CEO, Community General Hospital |
| Maryann Roefaro | CEO, Hematology-Oncology Associates of CNY |
| Jef Sneider, MD | Representing Onondaga County Medical Society |
| Robert Weisenthal, MD | President, CNY Eye Care |
| Arthur Vercillo, MD | President, CNY Region, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield |
| Bruce Wood, Atty. | Partner, Wood and Smith, PC |
| Patricia Numann, MD | Lloyd S. Rogers Professor of Surgery Emeritus, SUNY |

About the Health Advancement Collaborative of Central New York (HAC-CNY)

HAC-CNY is 501 (c)3 not-for-profit, multi-stakeholder collaboration of leaders in health care, business and insurance formed in 2005 to address concerns about health care access, quality and cost in CNY. HAC-CNY's founding members include the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, the Hospital Executive Council, the Manufacturers Association of Central New York, the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and Central New York, the Onondaga Medical Society, and Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. In 2010, HAC-CNY launched HealthConnections; the regional health information organization (RHIO) for Central New York.

About the Central New York Health Systems Agency (CNYHSA)

CNYHSA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, regional health planning agency with nearly 35 years of experience in system and program planning, policy development, data and financial analysis, utilization research, and project review. Its primary mission is to provide effective health planning and development in CNY. The agency has long been visible at the state and national level and recognized for its policy innovations and development of planning methods. CNYHSA is governed by a 20 member board representing consumers, providers, employers, government, and community service representatives.

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