

Spring Newsletter

2024

A Note from the Executive Director

Greetings!

I am thrilled to introduce you to the Healthcare Consortium's quarterly newsletter with this inaugural edition! In four issues annually, we will provide a glimpse into our daily operations and keep you informed about our latest endeavors. In each newsletter, you can expect to see a Quarterly Impact Report, Highlights & Announcements, a Network Member Spotlight, a Staff Member Spotlight, and an "In the News" section, highlighting our recent publications and mentions in the media.

Furthermore, I'm pleased to announce that our [2023 Impact Report](#) is now available on our website. This report highlights client stories, showcases the impact of our programs, and underscores how our distinctive approach fosters communication and collaboration across Columbia and Greene Counties.

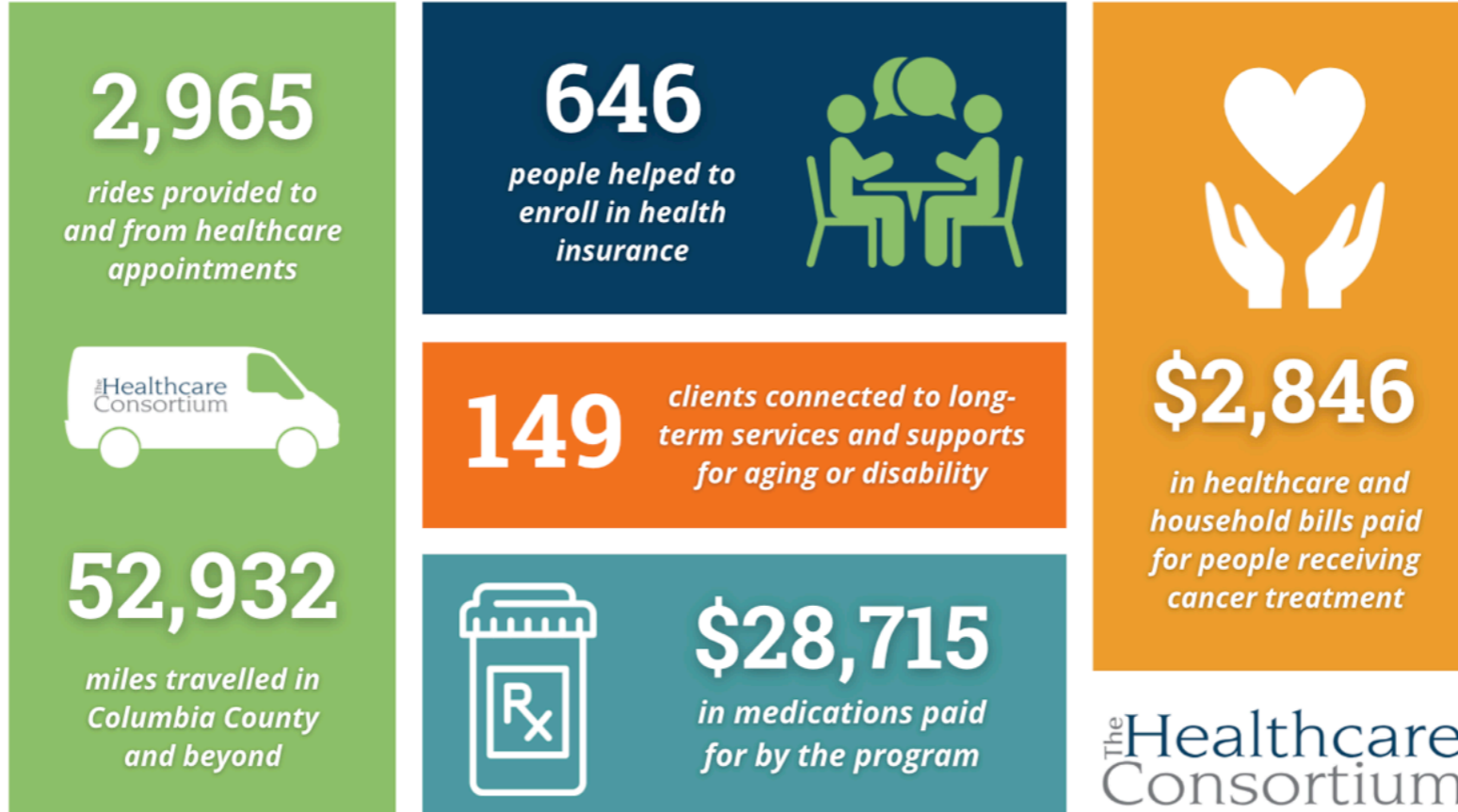


None of our work would be possible without the unwavering support of our community, and for that, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you.

Warm Regards,
Claire Parde
Executive Director

Quarterly Impact Report:

January - March



Highlights & Announcements

— Honoring Karen DePeyster at our Annual Recognition Event —

On April 11th, the Healthcare Consortium's community of board members, staff, partners, supporters, and friends gathered to honor the late Karen DePeyster with the Anne W. Zittel Friend of the Consortium Award. For over 20 years, Karen dePeyster led the Consortium's Tobacco-Free Action of Columbia and Greene Counties Program and made our community a better place to live, learn, work, and play!



Thank you to everyone who joined us for such a special evening of community and commemoration!

— New Team Members & Promotions —

Say hello to the new members of our team:

- Nathan McLaughlin, *Director of Consumer Assistance Programs*
- Mariana Emireth Davenport, *Navigator*
- Christopher Drennon, *CARTS Driver*
- Mark Dusenbery, *CARTS Driver*
- Anna Maxwell, *CARTS Driver*

Congratulations to Lisa Thomas and John Ray for their recent promotions! John now serves as our Director of Finance. Lisa now serves as our Director of Business Operations.

— Upcoming Events —

SAVE THE DATE! This year's Children and Adults Rural Transportation Service (CARTS) fundraiser is on **Thursday, August 1st** at Upper Depot Brewing in Hudson, NY. Come celebrate 25 years of connecting Columbia residents to their care! More details to come...



— We're Hiring! —

The Healthcare Consortium is seeking a full-time Program Assistant to provide support to our Navigator Program and general administrative support to the organization. More info and an application can be found [here](#).

Network Member Spotlight

— Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood —

As the Rural Health Network for Columbia County, The Healthcare Consortium convenes health and social care providers to ensure that we foster positive and productive working relationships, exchange information, and promote collaboration on a regular basis. Each newsletter, we will profile one of our Network Members, highlighting their work in our community.

Our Network Member [Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood](#) is a community-based non-profit organization providing advocacy, education and reproductive health care services with three health centers in Albany, Hudson and Troy. They are driven by a commitment to serve the underserved, ensuring equitable access to essential healthcare services for all.



Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood

[Learn more](#)

"Through our connection with community-based organizations such as the Health Care Consortium, Planned Parenthood has expanded its outreach and strengthened partnerships with those dedicated to serving our community's most vulnerable populations. This collaboration enables us to better reach and assist individuals who are most in need of our services."

— Marielle McKasty-Stagg, COO
Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood

— Upcoming Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood Events —

Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood is actively involved in educating our community on the Equal Rights Amendment that will be on the ballot in November this year. The Equal Rights Amendment will add protections to the constitution that would prohibit discrimination against groups who have been historically targeted, including those with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, immigrants, women, and pregnant people including protections for abortion. **If you are interested in learning more about the ERA or how you can get involved, you can attend our in-person Activist Training on Thursday, May 16th at 5:30pm at our Hudson Health Center** located at 804 Columbia Street or attend one of our virtual events. [Visit uhpp.org to sign up.](#)

Please join Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood at Union Street Brewing, located at 716 Union St, Hudson, NY 12534 on September 12th for their fall fundraiser. This special gathering will feature important updates from CEO Chelly Hegan and actions you can take to help us build a stronger future of care. All proceeds will support local access to health care delivered right here in our community. For more information please email dev@uhpp.org.

Staff Member Spotlight

The Healthcare Consortium is thrilled to spotlight Nathan McLaughlin, our new Director of Consumer Assistance Programs, in our Spring issue.

As the Director of Consumer Assistance Programs, McLaughlin manages the Consortium's Consumer Assistance Programs, including the Navigator Program, NY Connects, the Prescription Access and Referral Program, and the Financial Assistance Funds. To do so, he works closely with our partners at the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office for the Aging, and the Columbia County Office for the Aging.

Upon his start, McLaughlin shared:

"I am excited that the variety of people who can receive help from the Healthcare Consortium is vast. Hudson is a small city with big city problems and the Healthcare Consortium is critical in providing services to all sorts of people. I have felt close to the Consortium's work for years and am excited to now be part of their work."



McLaughlin joins the Healthcare Consortium as a longstanding leader in Columbia and Greene Counties, with previous roles as the Executive Director of Camphill Hudson and Interim Executive Director of CREATE of Councils on the Arts. With over 16 years of experience in the nonprofit field and a Nonprofit Leadership Certification from the Harvard Kennedy School, McLaughlin is well prepared for the role and will continue our mission to increase access to healthcare services and support the health and well-being of the people in our rural community.

Claire Parde, Executive Director of the Healthcare Consortium, shared that, *"We are truly delighted that Nathan has joined the team at the Healthcare Consortium to oversee our Consumer Assistance Programs! He has deep knowledge and experience with all the areas that will benefit both the staff and clients of those programs, as well as the agency overall. We feel very lucky to have him, and very excited about all that he will contribute to the next phase of life for the Consortium!"*

In the News

Each month, a member of our team publishes a column in Hudson Valley 360, highlighting a current healthcare issue. **Catch up on our latest columns:**

[How Big Tobacco Markets to Youth on Screens Big and Small](#)
Jennifer Reilly Bluma, *Tobacco-Free Action*

[How Social Isolation is a Public Health Problem We Can Solve](#)
Claire Parde, *Executive Director*

[CARTS: Connecting You to Care](#)
Jim Funk, *CARTS Program Director*

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