

The Healthcare Consortium

Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting of February 4, 2026

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Becky Polmateer at 2:35 p.m.

The following members were present at Roll Call: Karen Amanna, Nina Benvenuto, Theresa Lux, Victoria McGahan, Marielle McKasty-Stagg, Maria Ostrander, Becky Polmateer, Jolene Race, John Thompson.

The following members were absent at roll call: Dan Almasi, Toni Carroll, Bob Gibson, PJ Keeler, Jack Mabb, Amanda Pierro, Art Proper, David Rossetti, Dorothy Urschel, Kathleen Eldridge.

Staff members present were Claire Parde and Lisa Thomas.

II. Service Story

Service Stories are brief anecdotes that are meant to illustrate the nature of the Consortium's work and its impact on our clients. For this month's service story, Claire described the ABC News 10 segment on CARTS, during which two clients spoke about the impact the program has had on them. They both noted how impossible their situations would be without the assistance of our program. Peggy Bain from Columbia-Greene Dialysis Center also provided critical commentary in the segment, which can be found in full here:

<https://www.news10.com/news/local-news/healthcare-consortiums-carts-program-ensures-patients-get-to-appointments/>.

Bob Gibson arrived at 2:38 p.m.

III. Communications

A. Presentation on the Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Planning Processes

Claire provided a presentation on work related to the Prevention Agenda. The Prevention Agenda, which is created every six years by the New York State Department of Health, is designed to promote health equity across populations experiencing health disparities. The current Prevention Agenda, which covers the period between 2025 and 2030, places a great emphasis on the social determinants of health, as illustrated by the five domains it contains: economic stability, social and community context, neighborhood and the built environment, healthcare access and quality, and education access and quality.

Periodically, local health departments and hospitals are required to develop a Community Health Needs Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plan related to the Prevention Agenda. In Columbia and Greene Counties, this work was jointly undertaken by the Columbia County Department of Health, Greene County Public Health and Columbia Memorial Hospital—collectively called “The Columbia Greene Planning Partners”—with support provided, on a contractual basis, by the Healthcare Consortium. Also involved was the Healthy Capital District, which provided data analysis related to the Community

Health Needs Assessment and hosted the monthly Prevention Agenda Workgroup. Our submission of the assessment and plan to the state in December 2025 represents the third time we have submitted a single document on behalf of these three entities and two geographies. In our submission, we identified the following three priorities: Nutrition Security, Tobacco/E-cigarette Use, and Suicide. For each priority, a number of interventions were selected, which will be pursued during the implementation phase starting in 2026.

In late March, the Planning Partners will host a Stakeholder Meeting to review the selected priorities and interventions with the community that helped inform their selection. Naturally, all Board Members are invited to attend but in the meantime, anyone interested in reviewing the entire assessment and plan can do so at the following link: <https://www.albanymed.org/hudson/columbia-memorial-health-community-health-plans/>.

Dan Almasi arrived at 3:01 p. m.

IV. Reminder of the Duty to Disclose

Becky reminded the group to remember their duty to disclose any interests that may give rise to a conflict. No disclosures were made at this time.

V. Consent Agenda

The Board considered the following meeting minutes:

- Board of Directors Meeting of December 3, 2025
- Executive Committee Meeting of January 7, 2026
- Governance Committee Meeting of January 12, 2026
- Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of January 27, 2026

The motion to accept the minutes/actions of the regular Board of Directors meeting of December 3, 2025, and all Committee meeting minutes was made by Karen Amanna, seconded by Bob Gibson, and unanimously approved.

VI. Treasurer's Report

A. Fiscal Highlights Report

Claire reviewed the Fiscal Highlights Report. She noted that our cash position is pretty good. There are substantial outstanding accounts receivable from NYSDOH contracts—specifically, from the Navigator and Rural Health Network Development Program contracts, as neither has been fully executed as yet.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Claire provided the following verbal highlights from her more detailed written report:

Highlights:

- We received the sad news that the husband of Chelly Hegan, a former board member, passed away.
- The entire package of business insurances, which renews on 2/1, increased by 28%, principally driven by increases to auto insurance.
- We are happy to report that the Navigator Program is now fully staffed at 3.6 FTE.

- Our end-of-year-campaign, called “The Match for Mobility,” ran for the two months between December 1st and January 31st. During that time, we received 143 donations totaling \$12,058.30. Of this, \$7,804.69 was explicitly earmarked for CARTS. When evaluating our results, we are a little disappointed, given how much time, energy and tender we invested in the effort. This may have been a difficult time of year to tap our donor base, both because they had recently committed to the October CARTS Fundraiser and because they were likely to have been besieged by end-of-year requests from multiple organizations. We have decided that in the future, we will not try to compete for attention at this busy time of year, and instead conduct our fundraising efforts at other times. Despite our failure to raise \$25,000 for CARTS, we still anticipate that the Rip Van Winkle Foundation will provide the entirety of the \$25,000 match offer.
- Claire reported that corporate sponsorship packets were mailed out today.
- She also submitted three grant applications to charitable foundations, including the Bank of Greene County, CDPHP and the Community Foundation of the Greater Capital Region.
- Development Committee:
 - Board members Nina Benvenuto and Jolene Race volunteered to participate in this committee, but we have had difficulty securing commitments from non-Board Members to participate. Therefore, Sydney and Claire decided that instead of creating a Development Committee, we would create an Ambassador Program. Ambassadors would be asked to help promote the Consortium and facilitate connections with potential donors without having to meet regularly or frequently. Claire expressed the hope that Nina and Jolene would still participate in this new approach.

Strategic Plan:

Claire sent out the Plan to Board members and welcomed their questions. There will be a renewed focus on compensation. The plan is to conduct an agency-wide compensation study in the near future.

VIII. President’s Report

- A. Becky is seeking approval to changes to the CARTS Policy and Procedure Manual. The main change is to the No Show/Cancellation Policy, which Claire confirmed is permitted by the NYS Medicaid Program.

The motion to approve the proposed changes to the CARTS Policy and Procedure Manual was made by Bob Gibson, seconded by Nina Benvenuto, and unanimously approved.

- B. Becky advised the Board that Jack Mabb has resigned the office of Treasurer and she subsequently appointed Karen Amanna. Becky asked the board to ratify that appointment.

The motion to ratify the appointment of Karen Amanna to the Office of Treasurer was made by Theresa Lux, seconded by Maria Ostrander, and unanimously approved.

- C. Becky announced Karen Amanna as the new Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

- D. Becky announced the vacancy in the Office of Vice President and asked Board members to consider this role. The Vice President is part of the Executive Committee, which meets opposite Wednesdays of the Board meeting. The VP also serves as a signatory and runs the Board meetings in the absence of the President. Anyone interested should let Maria know by March 12th as the vote will take place in April.

- E. Executive Session

Becky requested an Executive Session so that Board members would have an opportunity to discuss the proposed compensation and contract for the Executive Director.

The motion to enter an Executive Session was made by Karen Amanna, seconded by Bob Gibson, and unanimously approved.

[Staff members Claire Parde and Lisa Thomas exited the meeting at 3:43 p.m.]

The motion to approve a two-year contract with a 2% COLA each year for the Executive Director was made by Karen Amanna, seconded by John Thompson, and unanimously approved.

The motion to exit the Executive Session was made by Bob Gibson, seconded by Jolene Race, and unanimously approved.

IX. Adjournment

The business of the regular Board meeting being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. following a motion made by Bob Gibson.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Ostrander".

Maria Ostrander, Board Secretary