

Newsletter

August 2021



Message from our President



CARHC is always looking for new ways to help our rural health clinics and help to improve the quality and safety in our clinics. During the past quarter we have offered some excellent webinars. Our August 6, 2021 on Leave of Absence is now posted in the member's portal.

All of our Rural Health Clinics continue to be actively involved in the daily fight to reduce the impact of COVID-19. Responding to the constant updates in testing, vaccinations, and treatments to reduce hospitalizations continues to demonstrate the value and impact of our work. RHC's remain the healthcare safety net in California.

My message to all of you is to continue to serve; keep educating, keep your patients engaged in their healthcare. The pandemic has highlighted the need for additional mental health services, a reduction in routine screening, increase in health behaviors that put people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

We have learned so much during the past 18 months. Use these lessons to help you prepare for the future.

I am continually inspired by your service. I am so proud to serve as the CARHC President with such an amazing group of RHC Clinics.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Paolinelli".

Karen Paolinelli, RN, PA-C, FNP-C
President

Health Net Partners with CARHC

CARHC was awarded \$25,000 from Health Net to encourage Rural Health Clinics increase COVID-19 Vaccination rates. As a grant recipient, CARHC committed to the achieving the following objectives:



- Educate community members on benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine and gain greater acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccination.
- Increase access to vaccinations in rural counties and reduce vaccination disparities in underserved and underinsured communities.
- Funding can be used to:
 - Support vaccination events: covering the cost of basic supplies (e.g. syringe containers, PPE, etc.), supporting staffing needs, communication efforts for the event, etc.
 - Provide COVID-19 vaccine education and navigation efforts, connecting patients to vaccination sites

Thank you, Health Net for having confidence in our Rural Health Clinics.

New Editing Established for FQHCs and RHCs

For claims processed on and after July 1, 2021, editing is being established for claims submitted by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC) for Medicare Part B Jurisdiction J.

Read More:

<https://palmettogba.com/palmetto/jjb.nsf/DIDC/AD6P2U7755-Medicare%20News>

CMS Proposes Physician Payment Rule to Improve Health Equity, Patient Access

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) is proposing changes to the physician payment rule to address the widening gap in health equity highlighted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). The changes also expand patient access to comprehensive care, especially in underserved populations. In CMS's annual Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) proposed rule, the agency is recommending steps that continue the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to strengthen and build upon Medicare by:

- *promoting health equity
- *expanding access to services via telehealth and other telecommunications technologies for behavioral health care
- *enhancing diabetes prevention programs;
- *further improving CMS's quality programs to ensure quality care for Medicare beneficiaries
- *create equal opportunities for physicians in both small and large clinical practices.

Read more

<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jeb/article-detail/-/view/10546/mln-connects-special-edition-july-13-2021-cms-proposes-physician-payment-rule-to-improve-health-equity-patient-access>

CARHC Announcing COVID-19 Vaccination Grant

Through the generosity of Health Net, CARHC members can apply for a maximum of \$5,000 to increase your clinic's COVID-19 Vaccination rates.

Rural Health Clinics that are not currently members of CARHC may renew their membership to be considered for grant funding.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Grant Application deadline is September 1, 2021

To receive more information or to renew your membership please send an email to info@CARHC.org

To download the application [click here](#)

HRSA Vaccine Confidence Grants

Notices went out on July 22, 2021 to the recipients of the "RHC Vaccine Confidence Grants." More than 7,980 clinics will receive approximately \$49,500.00. Congratulations to all of the RHC's that received an award.

Rural Health Clinics are crucial in helping to vaccinate our communities.

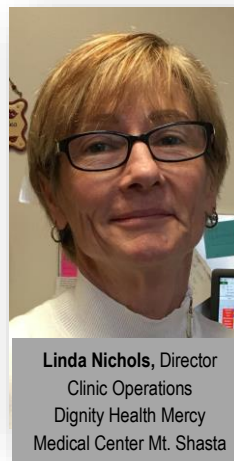
Read more:

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/07/22/biden-harris-admin-provides-100-million-to-rural-health-clinics-for-covid-19-vaccination.html>

Strength in Numbers

The Californian Association of Rural Health Clinics is the recognized voice and advocate for the mission of Rural Health Clinics in California. Membership is very affordable; \$300 per clinic and only \$100 for each additional location. If you or your organization is not a Rural Health Clinic, CARHC also offers affiliate memberships. Visit www.CARHC.org to learn more about membership and our educational webinars. Email info@CARHC.org if you have questions.

Thank You for Your Service



Linda Nichols, Director
Clinic Operations
Dignity Health Mercy
Medical Center Mt. Shasta

On December 1, 2021 Linda Nichols will be stepping down as our CARHC Board Member.

We thank Linda for her service on the CARHC Board and for her commitment to Rural Health. We wish Linda the best.

Ask the Expert

CARHC members have years of experience. If you are new to Rural Health Clinic leadership and are looking to strengthen your knowledge and skills we have a member who can help. Send a quick note to info@CARHC.org outlining your most pressing concern, and we will match you with an expert who can provide guidance.