

# Newsletter

## July 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. We have a new webinar on Leave of Absence that will be on 8/6/21. We will have these webinars available posted on our members portal for all our members to watch at a later date if they would like to.

Our clinics continue to be in the daily fight against COVID-19. With all of the constant updates in testing, vaccinations, outbreaks, and hospitalization rates it can be overwhelming.

What does remain constant is that as RHC's we remain the safety net in the communities we serve. We continue to work on the frontlines and step up when needed.

My message to all of you is to continue to do what you do and that is to serve. Keep educating and making available to our patients the ability to test or be vaccinated. Keep sharing important information about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines. Continue to practice safety and remain safe.

It is predicted that we might see another surge in October 2021. We have learned so much during the past 18 months. Use these past 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

### Resignation of Board Member



Linda Nichols  
Director of Clinic  
Operations  
Dignity Health Mercy

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 in her future!

### CARHC Accepting Applications for Board Members

CARHC is currently looking for Board Members. If you have a passion for assisting Rural Health and are interested in information on how to become a Board member, please contact us at [info@CARHC.org](mailto:info@CARHC.org)

### Health Net COVID-19 Vaccine Sponsorship

CARHC was awarded a one-time vaccine sponsorship from Health Net \$25,000. The objectives are as follows:

- 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

## CARHC Announcing COVID-19 Vaccination Grant

CARHC will be offering members the opportunity to apply for a maximum of \$5,000 to increase your clinic's vaccination rates.

Rural Health Clinics who are not currently members of CARHC and are interested in applying may renew their membership to be considered for funding.

Application deadline is September 1, 2021

To receive more information, to renew your membership please send an email to [info@CARHC.org](mailto:info@CARHC.org)

To download the application, [click here](#)

## New Editing Established for Federally Qualified Health Center and Rural Health Clinics

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.

To read on click link below:

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

## 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.

To learn more click link below:

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

## MLN Connects Special Edition - July 13, 2021 - CMS Proposes Physician Payment Rule to Improve Health Equity, Patient Access

CMS is proposing changes to address the widening gap in health equity highlighted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and to 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 furnished via telehealth and other telecommunications technologies for behavioral health care; enhancing diabetes prevention programs; and further improving CMS's quality programs to ensure quality care for Medicare beneficiaries and to create equal opportunities for physicians in both small and large clinical practices.

To read on click link below:

<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>

## Your CARHC Membership Organization Needs YOU!

The Californian Association of Rural Health Clinics is the recognized voice of California Rural Health Clinic issues. If you are a clinic, an individual or student with interest in Rural Health, CARHC needs your support. Become a member of CARHC! Membership is very affordable with membership fees at \$300 for your clinic and only \$100 for each additional location that you would like to add. If you are an organization that is not a Rural Health Clinic, CARHC also offers affiliate membership. We have update our website with lots of current information and we are hosting regular webinars for our members. Please visit [www.CARHC.org](http://www.CARHC.org) to fill out a membership application or contact us at [info@CARHC.org](mailto:info@CARHC.org) if you have any questions.