The Healthcare Consortium

Summer Newsletter 2025

Please enjoy this edition of our quarterly newsletter—this time capturing the activities and accomplishments of the past summer and forecasting the great things ahead for us this fall—and feel free to share with your friends, family and neighbors. As always, thank you for your interest and support!

Impact Report for Quarter 2: April - June 2025

3,551 *rides provided to and from healthcare appointments*

69,915 *miles traveled in Columbia County and beyond*

740 *people helped to enroll in health insurance*

255 *clients connected to long-term services and supports for aging or disability*

$2,436 *paid for prescription medications*

$4,343 *in healthcare and household bills paid for people receiving cancer treatment*

The Healthcare Consortium

Highlights & Announcements

— Join us for 2025 CARTS Fundraiser next month—

YOU'RE INVITED

2025 CARTS FUNDRAISER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9 · 4:30 - 6:30 PM

UPPER DEPOT BREWING CO

708 STATE ST #1, HUDSON

Please join our drivers, riders, partners, and supporters as we celebrate another year of the Children and Adults Rural Transportation Service (CARTS) and raise funds to support the program!

Each year, CARTS provides thousands of rides to Columbia County residents to get them to and from their healthcare appointments.

But we can't do it without you—our community! Come together and enjoy drinks, light bites, and good company while helping keep our drivers on the road and our community connected to care!

Register Today

— The Consortium, Out and About —

This summer, our team was "out and about" connecting with the community in a variety of locations, from Senator Hinchey's Senior Resource Fair in July to workshops at libraries and town halls and most recently, the wonderful Senior Days hosted earlier this month in both Columbia and Greene Counties.

Looking ahead, we're excited to be at the following events in the month of October:

- October 5: **Columbia-Greene Out of the Darkness Walk** at Dutchman's Landing Park in Catskill, NY
- October 11: **Conference in the Catskills** at Anthony's Banquet Hall in Leeds, NY
- October 24: Our **NY Connects Resource Roundtable** at the Canaan Congregational Church

More dates will be added as the fall progresses, so we invite you to **follow us on social media** for the latest updates.

— Save the Date —

Celebrate National Rural Health Day at the Night School

On November 20th, the Healthcare Consortium, which serves as the Rural Health Network of Columbia County, and our sister agency, the Greene County Rural Health Network, will be joining forces to celebrate the "Power of Rural" on National Rural Health Day! Please join us for this special "Charity Night at Night School" in Athens, NY to help us highlight and celebrate all the things that make rural places wonderful places to live, work, learn, play and pray. More details will be posted to our website and socials and landing in your inbox soon!

National Rural Health Day
Celebrating the Power of Rural

— Staff Announcements —

This August, we welcomed Rosalva Flores as a full-time In-Person Assistor/Navigator in our Navigator Program! In this role, Rosalva will be assisting residents of Columbia and Greene Counties to shop for, compare, and enroll in quality, affordable health insurance through the New York State of Health. Rosalva can be reached by phone at (518) 822-9600 or at our office located at 325 Columbia Street, Suite 200. She will also be serving residents, in both Spanish and English, at various locations throughout the Twin Counties. The next time you are near our main office, stop by and say hello!

— We're Hiring —

The Healthcare Consortium is currently seeking to hire another **full-time Navigator** to complete the team providing health insurance enrollment services through our Navigator Program. The fall is a perfect time to start the extensive training program (no prior knowledge or experience required!) to be ready to help family, friends and neighbors when it's time for the open enrollment period later this year.

Learn more and apply

Network Member Spotlight

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 profile one of our Network Members, highlighting their work in our community.

— Columbia County Office for the Aging —

The **Columbia County Office for the Aging** is dedicated to empowering our older residents to thrive in their own homes while staying connected with their families and communities as they age. By advocating for their needs and providing essential services, the Columbia County Office for the Aging strives to ensure that our older residents enjoy a fulfilling aging experience. Together, they are creating a community that celebrates aging, where everyone can feel connected and supported.

COLUMBIA COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF

"Becoming a part of the Healthcare Consortium network has been an amazing journey! We're not just collaborating with fellow organizations; we're forging powerful connections that truly elevate our programs and services. Together, we're making a meaningful impact that resonates with everyone we serve!"

— Nina Benvenuto, Administrator of CCOFA

The Columbia County Office for the Aging is currently conducting the Town-based Survey of Senior Population Needs 2025. Much has changed since the pandemic and your Columbia County Office for the Aging (CCOFA) wants to be sure that today's services meet current and anticipated Senior Citizen needs. This survey will be used by the CCOFA to identify unmet needs and necessary service modifications to meet that goal. It will also provide town and other county agencies with a better understanding of their senior population.

The survey is available both **online** and in print. You can find printed copies at local libraries, Town Hall, and the Columbia County Office for the Aging at 325 Columbia St in Hudson.

ARE YOU 60 YEARS OR OLDER?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take a moment to complete our:

Town-based Survey of Senior Population Needs 2025

Town-based Survey of Senior Population Needs 2025

Network Member News

In this section, we share news about our Network Members, celebrating their achievements, promoting their events, and supporting their initiatives.

- Congratulations to the **Columbia-Greene Community College** for kicking off the new semester and welcoming new and returning students, faculty, staff, and administrators to campus! We also extend our warmest welcome to CGCC's new President, Dr. Victoria Walsh.
- **Columbia Memorial Health** is offering four community flu vaccination clinics at their Hudson, Catskill, and Valatie Pediatrics offices. Vaccination appointments are required, and available to all ages. To make an appointment, call the office near you to secure your spot:
  - October 1: Hudson Pediatrics — Call 518-828-4125
  - October 14 & 25: Valatie Pediatrics — Call 518-392-2277
  - October 18: Catskill Pediatrics — Call 518-943-2557
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia-Greene** is hosting a **Fall Gardening Day** in Hudson on September 27th. Bring your extra garden harvest and swap with neighbors for something new! No produce to share? No problem—you're still welcome to take some home. Leftover produce will be donated to another one of our Network Members, **Columbia Kitchen**.
- Join **Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties** on October 23rd for **Narcan & Fentanyl Training** at Germantown Library. Learn how to recognize the signs of opioid overdose and safely administer Narcan to help save a life.

Staff Member Spotlight

In this newsletter, we are thrilled to spotlight two members of our leadership team who recently marked major milestones at the Healthcare Consortium!

Lisa Thomas, our Director of Business Operations, celebrated her 20th anniversary working at the HC!

Since joining the Consortium in June 2005, Lisa has worn many hats. She began by helping community members enroll in public healthcare, then moved into program management roles, including leading the Navigator Program when the health insurance provisions of the Affordable Care Act were put in practice. She later directed the portfolio of Consumer Assistance Programs before becoming our Director of Business Operations last year. In every role, Lisa has been a kind, reliable, steadfast support for every client and coworker. She makes the HC run!

As Executive Director Claire Parde put it, ***"Lisa has also been a rock—that steady, unflappable presence that all staff rely on and I simply couldn't do without. Her relatively recent transition from program management to administration has been another indication of her ability to adapt, learn, and grow. The whole HC is lucky to have had her time and talents these past 20 years, and we'll be lucky to have them in the days ahead."***

Jim Funk, our Transportation Program Director, celebrated his 15th anniversary at the HC!

Jim started his journey with the Consortium in 2010 as a CARTS driver. He quickly advanced to Transportation Program Assistant, then Coordinator, and in January 2020 was named Director of the program when his predecessor retired. Throughout his time as Director, Jim has shaped CARTS into the program it is today, fostering a culture of compassionate, client-centered service...that runs like clockwork!

In Claire's words, **"Jim is simply indispensable. There isn't anyone who is more dedicated, reliable, or works harder than Jim to make CARTS the best possible program it can be. He's also my "go-to guy" for practically anything that comes up—if it's within his power to help, he'll do so without hesitation. Jim has all my gratitude for all that he has done and I know is still committed to do on behalf of the program, the agency, and our team."**

We are honored to celebrate Lisa and Jim for their many years of service and the lasting impact they've made on our community

In the News

Throughout the year, Consortium staff write articles that highlight a program or current health issue. Some of these are published as columns called "For Your Health" in Hudson Valley 360 while others are simply posted to our website and shared via social media. **Catch up on our latest articles:**

NY Connects in Greene County
June

Staying Safe in the Summer Heat
July

Get Your Students Ready for School with Vaccinations
August

Follow us on social media:

Support our work:

DONATE

Sign up for our mailing list:

SIGN UP

The Healthcare Consortium

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