



ANI Membership Organization NCNA-CONI: Leading Change through Beacon

May 10, 2010 - The Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program through the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology - Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), has recently announced 15 regional communities that will be provided with funding to build and strengthen their health information technology (health IT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities. These communities will demonstrate the vision of a future where hospitals, clinicians, and patients are meaningful users of health IT, and together the community achieves measurable improvements in health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health.

The Southern Piedmont Community Care Plan was announced as a recipient of one of the Beacon Community Awards for \$15,907,622. This Beacon will cover IT infrastructure and interoperability activities involving Cabarrus, Rowan and Stanly Counties of North Carolina. Deborah Aldridge, MSN, RN-BC Manager of Clinical Quality and Informatics at Stanly Medical Services was involved in the writing of this grant, both as a representative for NCNA (North Carolina State Nurses Association), NCNA-CONI (North Carolina State Nurses Association Council on NI) and for the healthcare provider setting impacted by the grant. "We are extremely excited about all of the energy, research, learning, and growing that will be coming over the next months and years! This project is going to be very intense, but, knowing the plan and the team, some very remarkable things will be evolving out of this work."

An additional \$30.3 million is currently available to fund additional Beacon Community cooperative agreement awards. Beacon Communities will generate and disseminate evidence and insights that are applicable to the rest of the nation about the use of health IT resources to inform a range of specific clinical, care delivery, and other reforms that, together, can enable communities to achieve measurable and sustainable improvements in health care cost, quality, and population health. The Beacon Community Program will include \$250 million in awards to 17 communities with an additional \$15 million for technical assistance to help these communities succeed and to evaluate what works.

Press release: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/vice-president-biden-hhs-secretary-sebelius-announce-selection-15-health-it-pilot-c>

More

information: <http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1422&mode=2>