

# Health Equity Learning

*Learning and Action Network (LAN)*

January 23, 2024

Facilitator: Chiao Wen Lan and Emma Okamoto

ESRD National Coordinating Center



# Meeting Logistics



Call is being recorded



All participants are muted upon joining the call

We want to hear from you.

Type questions and comments in the “Chat” section, located in the bottom-right hand corner of your screen.



Meeting materials will be posted to the ESRD NCC website

# Who Is on the Call?

Dialysis Facility  
and Transplant  
Professionals

ESRD Network  
Staff

Centers for  
Medicare &  
Medicaid Services  
(CMS) Leadership

Patients and  
Families

# Key Objectives for Today

NPFE-LAN Updates

Hear from experts from Networks  
4, 5, 6 and 14

Discuss and share

# Ways to Spread Best Practices from Today's LAN

- Listen and share your approaches/experiences via Chat
- Identify how shared information could be used at your facility
- Apply at least one idea from today's LAN at your facility
- Commit to sharing your learnings with other colleagues

Learning and Action Networks (LANs) bring people together around a shared idea, opportunity, or challenge to offer and request information and experiences to improve the identified topic of discussion.

# Questions To Run On



What “ah ha” concept will I hear today that I can introduce to my organizations’ leadership team?



How might organization use the change package to improve outcomes?



In what way can my organization adapt this approach to increase and sustain improved outcomes?

# **National Patient and Family Engagement Learning and Action Network (NPFE-LAN) Committee**



# Who We Are



Committee made up of ESRD NCC SMEs (subject matter experts)



Meet monthly in collaboration with OMH



Develop resources and spread health equity awareness



## What Is Person-First Language?

Person-first language emphasizes the **person** and views the condition a person has as **only one part of the whole person**.

For example, **a person with diabetes** not a diabetic.



# DRAFT



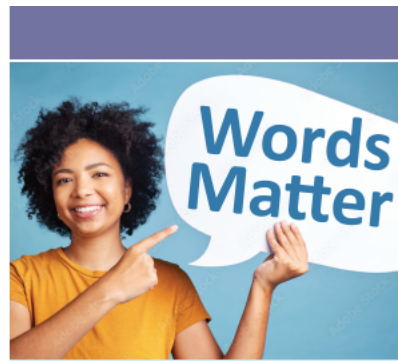
## Contact Us

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FL-ESRD NCC-?????-?????-??



The words we use can make a big difference in how someone feels. Being mindful of the words we use is the first step in changing the culture. Use this list to start a conversation around destigmatizing language with your friends, family, and care team.



## Examples

### Instead of failed treatment...

Use **the treatment was not effective in the patient** or **the patient did not respond to treatment**.

### Instead of homeless people...

Use **persons who are unhoused**, or **persons without an address**.

### Instead of addicts/drug abusers...

Use **persons with substance use disorder**, or **persons who use drugs**, or **persons who returned to use**.

## Examples

### Instead of caretaker...

Use **caregiver** or **care partner**.

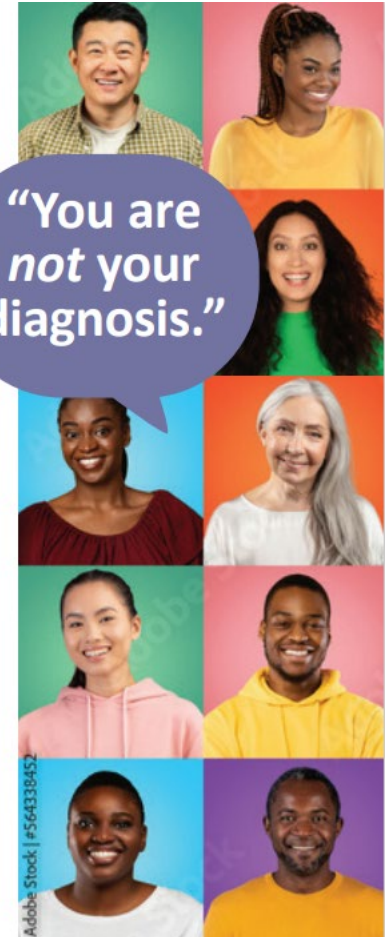
### Instead of crazy, insane, mental defect...

Use **persons with a mental illness**, or **persons with a diagnosis of mental health disorder**.

### Instead of rural people...

Use **residents of rural areas** or **persons who live in sparsely populated areas**.

"You are not your diagnosis."



# **Network 14: Alliant Health Solutions Texas**

**Rosa Abraha, MPH**





**ALLIANT**  
ESRD NETWORK 14



# The Essential Steps to Facility Health Equity Action Planning

Rosa Abraha, MPH

# Rosa Abraha, MPH



Rosa Abraha, MPH  
Health Equity Lead  
Alliant Health Solutions  
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Rosa leads Alliant Health Solution's first health equity strategic portfolio and embeds health equity in the core of Alliant's work.

Rosa has 10 years of experience in public health advisory for premier agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

She holds a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from Emory University.

# Six Step Model for Health Equity Action Planning



Today's presentation will focus strictly on steps #1, #2 and #6!

# Step #1: Facility IDT Engagement and Health Equity Team

## ● CMS HCHE

### MUC 2021-106 | Domain 5A

Our hospital senior leadership, including chief executives and the entire hospital board of trustees, annually reviews our strategic plan for achieving health equity.

# Building Your Baseline Health Equity Team in a Dialysis Facility

**You may not have a large facility or a large team so at minimum your facility health equity team could include the following key personnel:**

- MSWs
- Administrative Assistant
- Nurses
- PCTs
- RDs
- Leadership/Management
  
- **Hospital Staff Pertaining to the 5 CMS SDOH Domains:**
  - **Food Insecurity:** RD, RN, MSW, PCT
  - **Transportation:** AA, MSW, RN, PCT
  - **Homelessness:** MSW, RD, RN, PCT, AA
  - **Utility Difficulties:** MSW, RD, RN
  - **Interpersonal Violence:** MSW, PCT, RN, RD
  - **All Domains:** Language line interpretation services/personnel

## Step #2: Data Collection - REaL and SDOH Patient Demographic Data

### ● CMS HCHE

#### MUC 2021-106

##### Domain 2A

Our hospital collects demographic information, including self-reported race and ethnicity and/or social determinant of health information on the majority of our patients.

##### Domain 2B

Our hospital has training for staff in culturally sensitive collection of demographic and/or social determinant of health information.

##### Domain 2C

Our hospital inputs demographic and/or social determinant of health information collected from patients into structured, interoperable data elements using a certified EHR technology.



# Data Collection: 5 Domains of SDOH Screening

## 1. Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is defined as limited or uncertain access to adequate quality and quantity of food at the household level.

## 2. Housing Instability

Housing instability encompasses multiple conditions ranging from the inability to pay rent or mortgage, frequent changes in residence including temporary stays with friends and relatives, living in crowded conditions, and actual lack of sheltered housing in which an individual does not have a personal residence.

## 3. Transportation Needs

Unmet transportation needs include limitations that impede transportation to destinations required for all aspects of daily living.

## 4. Utility Difficulties

Inconsistent availability of electricity, water, oil, and gas services is directly associated with housing instability and food insecurity.

## 5. Interpersonal Safety

Assessment for this domain includes screening for exposure to intimate partner violence, child abuse, and elder abuse.

# CMS AHC HRSN - SDOH Screening Tool



## AHC HRSN Screening Tool Core Questions

If someone chooses the underlined answers, they might have an unmet health-related social need.

### Living Situation

#### 1. What is your living situation today?<sup>3</sup>

- I have a steady place to live
- I have a place to live today, but I am worried about losing it in the future
- I do not have a steady place to live (I am temporarily staying with others, in a hotel, in a shelter, living outside on the street, on a beach, in a car, abandoned building, bus or train station, or in a park)

#### 2. Think about the place you live. Do you have problems with any of the following?<sup>4</sup>

CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY

- Pests such as bugs, ants, or mice
- Mold
- Lead paint or pipes
- Lack of heat
- Oven or stove not working
- Smoke detectors missing or not working
- Water leaks
- None of the above

### Food

Some people have made the following statements about their food situation. Please answer whether the statements were OFTEN, SOMETIMES, or NEVER true for you and your household in the last 12 months.<sup>5</sup>

#### 3. Within the past 12 months, you worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more.

- Often true
- Sometimes true
- Never true

- CMS and CMMI developed the Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening Tool.
- It is recommended to use this form and integrate the questions into your EHR as it contains 2 questions in each of the 5 core domains that CMS will be evaluating for both structural measures (SDOH-1 and SDOH-2) .
- This is a great tool to embed into your record keeping systems and asking these on the front end of the patient experience will help you to address social barriers that impede a patient's consistent and sustainable dialysis care.

# Evaluate Health Equity Data Collection in Your Dialysis Facility

## What data do you already collect and how is it collected?

- Example: Race, Ethnicity and Language (REaL) Data is self-reported at registration
  - *Suggested registrar training:* (<https://ifdhe.aha.org/hretdisparities/collecting-data-nuts-bolts>)


## What data do need to start collecting to meet CMS standards and how do you plan to do that?

- Solidify a process for SDOH data collection and trigger consult to address issues that arise
  - Example: Interdisciplinary treatment facility staff (i.e., RD, RN, social worker etc.) would ask these questions and the system would immediately trigger a social worker consult if a patient screens positive for a SDOH to develop a plan of care to address that SDOH

## Information Systems:


- Does your EMR have a custom report built into it for collecting this data into a report? If not, please consider discussing this with leadership to built your health disparities reporting to show to CMS.

# RESOURCES: Additional SDOH Screening Tools

 **Upstream Risks Screening Tool & Guide**


"Everyone deserves the opportunity to have a safe, healthy place to live, work, eat, sleep, learn and play. Problems or stress in these areas can affect health. We ask our patients about these issues because we may be able to help."

Domain*	Minimum Frequency**	Question	Response	Suggested Scoring	Referral Plan Complete?
Education	First visit	1a. What is the highest level of school you have completed? Check one.	Elementary School High School College Graduate / Professional School	+1 for "Elementary School"	
		1b. What is the highest degree you earned? Check one.	High school diploma GED Vocational certificate (post high school or GED) Associate's degree (junior college) Bachelor's degree Master's degree Doctorate	+1 for "High School Diploma, GED, or Vocational Certificate"	
Education	First visit & annually	1c. Are you concerned about your child's learning, performance, or behavior in school?	YES NO Not applicable	+1 for YES	
Employment	First visit & biannually	2. Choose one of the following. Which best describes your current occupation?	Homemaker, not working outside the home Employed (or self-employed) full time Employed (or self-employed) part time Employed, but on leave	+1 for: "Employed, but on leave for health reasons"; "Unemployed"; OR	

 **PRAPARE**  
 Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patients' Assets, Risks, and Experiences

**PRAPARE®: Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patient Assets, Risks, and Experiences**  
 Paper Version of PRAPARE® for Implementation as of September 2, 2016

Personal Characteristics		
1. Are you Hispanic or Latino?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question
2. Which race(s) are you? Check all that apply		
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American	
<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native	
Other (please write): _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question		
3. At any point in the past 2 years, has season or migrant farm work been your or your family's main source of income?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question
4. Have you been discharged from the armed forces of the United States?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question
5. What language are you most comfortable speaking?		
<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question		
8. Are you worried about losing your housing?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question
9. What address do you live at? Street: _____ City, State, Zip code: _____		
<b>Money &amp; Resources</b>		
10. What is the highest level of school that you have finished?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Less than high school degree	<input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma or GED	
<input type="checkbox"/> More than high school	<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question	
11. What is your current work situation?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> Part-time or temporary work	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time work
Otherwise unemployed but not seeking work (ex: student, retired, disabled, unpaid primary care giver) Please write: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> I choose not to answer this question		
12. What is your main insurance?		

 **AAFP**  
 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

## Social Needs Screening Tool

<p><b>HOUSING</b></p> <p>1. Are you worried or concerned that in the next two months you may not have stable housing that you own, rent, or stay in as a part of a household?<sup>1</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2. Think about the place you live. Do you have problems with any of the following? (check all that apply)<sup>2</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bug infestation <input type="checkbox"/> Mold <input type="checkbox"/> Lead paint or pipes <input type="checkbox"/> Inadequate heat <input type="checkbox"/> Oven or stove not working <input type="checkbox"/> No or not working smoke detectors <input type="checkbox"/> Water leaks <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above</p>	<p><b>CHILD CARE</b></p> <p>7. Do problems getting child care make it difficult for you to work or study?<sup>3</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>EMPLOYMENT</b></p> <p>8. Do you have a job?<sup>4</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>9. Do you have a high school degree?<sup>5</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>FINANCES</b></p> <p>10. How often does this describe you? I don't have enough money to pay my bills.<sup>6</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Always</p>
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*NOTE: Facilities may use any self-reported screening tool, but it's recommended (not required) to use as many questions as possible from the CMS AHC health-related social needs screening tool. When you click on the image of each tool, you will see the link to take you to view it in full.*

# RESOURCES: Sample Scripting to Ask REAL and SOGI Questions in a Culturally Sensitive Manner

## REAL Data Collection Script and Definition

*This document can be provided to staff during orientation or training on the collection of REAL data to ensure consistent screening and documentation are being collected across all points of registration. These are recommended script and suggested responses when screening patients.*

### Recommended Script for Patient's Ethnicity, Race, and Language Screening

*"I would like you to tell me your race and ethnic background. We use this information to review the treatment patients received and make sure everyone gets the highest quality of care."*

- *First, do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino? (See ethnicity definition at end of document)*

- Yes
- No
- Declined
- Unknown/ Unavailable

- *Which category or categories best describe your race? (See race definitions at end of document)*

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Declined
- Unknown
- Other Race

- *What language do you feel most comfortable speaking with your doctor or nurse (patient's primary language)?*

- Provide a list of options. Consider the community you serve, for example if your community is mostly Asian, provide a list of Asian languages (i.e., Mandarin, Hindi, Japanese, etc.) along with your commonly spoken language such as English and Spanish.

### Sample script for collecting patient race and ethnicity

*Using OMB Race and Ethnicity Categories*

"We want to make sure that all of our patients get the best care possible. We would like you to tell us your racial/ethnic background so that we can review the treatment that all patients receive and make sure that everyone gets the highest quality of care."

Ethnicity Question	Race Question
<i>Do you consider yourself Hispanic/Latino/Spanish?</i>	<i>Which category best describes your race?</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Unavailable/Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Some other race <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Unavailable/Unknown

*Using Open-ended or Granular Categories*

"We want to make sure that all of our patients get the best care possible. We would like you to tell us your racial/ethnic background so that we can review the treatment that all patients receive and make sure that everyone gets the highest quality of care. I would like you to describe your race or ethnic background. You can use specific terms such as Korean, Mexican, Haitian, Somali, etc..."

*If people express concern about confidentiality or who will see this information, state the following:*

"The only people who see this information are registration staff, administrators for the hospital, and the people involved in quality improvement and oversight, and the confidentiality of what you say is protected by law."

## Race, Ethnicity, and Language (REaL) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data Collection Conversation


### PURPOSE:

Collecting verbal self-reported REaL SOGI data from patients ensures your hospital has accurate information that can be used to improve care for all patients.

### REMINDERS:

1. Everyone comes to interactions with a set of ideas based on their own experiences over time, this is called implicit bias. Understanding your own bias helps you to connect more authentically with the person in front of you. Consider identifying any implicit bias that you may have by taking the [Harvard Implicit Association Tests](#).
2. It is recommended that you ask the SOGI questions first. This will ensure you are referring to the person by the correct pronoun.
3. It is recommended that you ask for ethnicity before race.
4. Language changes constantly. Consider reviewing and revising your script annually.
5. Use the patient's name until their pronouns are discovered. Consider asking pronouns at the beginning of the conversation.
6. Your hospital may consider adding "other" or "unknown" as an option. This may run the risk of unclear data
7. If someone expresses discomfort, share the patient education document.

# RESOURCES: Sample Scripting to Ask SDOH Questions in a Culturally Sensitive Manner



**Scripting Examples for SDOH Screening**

This tool is designed to support MDHHS SIM PCMH Initiative participants by providing opening conversation starters to begin Social Determinants of Health screening for PCMH practice staff to use in communication with patients. Please find a variety of scripting examples below.

**Scripting Options**

- “At [insert PCMH name], we believe that basic needs influence a patient’s overall health. We would like to begin to screen patients for different types of basic needs so that we could help connect them with resources to assist them with these needs. For some needs, we may not be able to connect you with resources to assist you with them, but we would like to identify community needs that we need to create resources to address as well.

We would appreciate it if you would answer the following questions. If you would prefer not to answer these questions, that is fine. We will keep all of the information that you share private, however, if you would like assistance with a need, we will need your permission to share this information with the community resource that can assist you with this need.”

SUNY Downstate Medical Center  
 Department of Family Medicine  
 SDOH Needs Assessment Phone Script  
 Authors: Lucy Bickerton, Nicolle Siegart, Dr. Orlando Sola, Dr. Crystal Marquez  
 March 2020

**PHONE SCRIPT**

**If you reach VOICEMAIL:**

Hi (*insert name*), my name is \_\_\_\_\_, calling from Downstate University Hospital. We’re a group of medical student volunteers that are reaching out to patients to see if there is anything we can help you with during the coronavirus pandemic. You don’t need to call us back - we will try to reach you at this number at another time.

**If you reach a PERSON:**

Hi (*insert name*), my name is \_\_\_\_\_, calling from Downstate University Hospital. We’re a group of medical student volunteers that are reaching out to patients to learn about how you’re doing during the coronavirus pandemic. We’re asking all of the clinic’s patients the same questions so we have a better understanding of what you’re going through and how we can help.

Do you have a few minutes to speak?

If no → I understand. is there a better time to call back?

If yes → Continue

I’m going to start off by asking you a few questions about yourself and your household so I have a better understanding of what your needs might be

1. Do you still live at \_\_\_\_\_ (address from EMR)?
2. What kind of residence (House/apartment/public housing/shelter/etc):
3. How many other people live with you?
4. What are their ages?

Note: These scripts are downloadable by clicking on the picture.

# Step #6: Health Equity Community Partnerships

<p>● CMS HCHE</p>	<p><b>MUC 2021-106 Domain 4A</b>          Our hospital <u>participates in local, regional, or national quality improvement activities</u> focused on reducing health disparities.</p>
<p>● CMS HCHE</p>	<p><b>MUC 2021-106 Domain 1D</b>          Our <u>hospital strategic plan describes our approach for engaging key stakeholders, such as community-based organizations.</u></p>
<p>● TJC</p>	<p><b>Standard LD.04.03.08</b>          Reducing healthcare disparities for the [organization's] [patients] is a quality and safety priority.  <b>EP 2</b>          The [organization] assesses the [patient's] health-related social needs and <u>provides information about community resources and support services.</u></p>

# A Culture of Health Equity: Key Clinical-Community Partnerships

## Example Clinical Partners

- Nephrologists
- Nephrology Social Workers
- Registered Nurses
- Registered Dietitians
- Technicians
- Registration Staff

## Example Community Partners

- United Way
- Area Agency On Aging
- Area Medicaid Reps
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Local Business (i.e., Barbershops, Grocery Stores)
- Local Employee Retiree Organizations
- Local Senior Centers
- Local Political Organizations
- Local Power Company
- Community Health Workers
- Local Transportation Agencies
- Housing Agencies
- Food Pantries/Shelters
- Literacy Volunteers
- Police and Fire Depts.
- Veterans Association
- Universities/Research Centers




# Developing Your Health Equity Community Partnerships List

- Best practice is to develop a community resource list and embed this tool intentionally into care planning when your patient screen positive for a SDOH.
  - Example to the right from Tift Regional Hospital in GA and you can see that their resource list clearly differentiates the type of resource labeled in categories by the 5 CMS SDOH Domains
- Ensure this tool is clearly labeled and consistently available at your nurses' station, as well as making sure your providers are trained on this tool.
- When developing your community resources lists clearly identify who are your trusted local, state and national partners. Does your EHR vendor already have a list you can pull from?

Community Resource List		
Community based services are agencies that offer support services to the public. To ensure that our patients are developed this community-based listing. For additional information, please speak with a member of your healthcare local Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS).		
TYPE OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE	NAME OF SERVICE PROVIDER	PHONE NUMBER
<b>Transportation:</b>	Hope EMS	229-396-4673
	Cook County Transit System	229-896-2266
	Regional Public Transit (formerly TiftLift)	1-855-360-7475
	Motivecare (formerly Logisticare)	1-888-224-7985
	Tift Lift	855-360-7475
	Turner Transit	229-567-3400
	Ben Hill Transit	229-246-7433
	Georgia Medicaid Net Program	888-224-7985
<b>Food Resources:</b>	Neighborhood Service Center/Soup Kitchen	229-382-6436, 229-391-9299
	Leroy Rogers Senior Center	229-391-9299
	Food Bank	229-392-2688
	Salvation Army	229-386-1503
	Second Harvest Food Bank	1-888-453-4143
	Local churches	

# Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services (Alliant Health Solutions CLAS Video Toolkit)



**Who Has Low Health Literacy?**

**Health Literacy**

Alliant QIO  
 4 videos 2 views Last updated on May 18, 2023

Play all Shuffle

1 **Who Has Low Health Literacy?**



8:34

**Health Literacy with Dr. Iris Feinberg, PhD, CHES**

Alliant QIO • 116 views • 3 months ago

2 **Bite-Sized Learning: Using Teach-Back**



10:25

**Bite-Sized Learning: Using Teach-Back**

Alliant QIO • 26 views • 8 days ago

3 **Why should we implement CLAS Standards?**



8:14

**Bite-Sized Learning: CLAS 101**

Alliant QIO • 37 views • 1 month ago

4 **GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & SUPPORT**  
**Create and Share Resources**



10:50

**Bite-Sized Learning: CLAS Implementation**

Alliant QIO • 38 views • 1 month ago

Source: [Link](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXWmxni-xNHvBQp3MQt8DXRae06CGF2JI>

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Patient Toll Free number:

1-877-886-4435

Email: [nw14info@allianthealth.org](mailto:nw14info@allianthealth.org)

Website: <https://quality.allianthealth.org/nqic/esrd/esrd-network-14/>



**ALLIANT**  
ESRD NETWORK 14



@ESRD8AND14



ESRD Network of Texas



@ESRDNetworkofTX



ESRD Networks 8 and 14

# **Network 6: IPRO**

**Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina**

**Andrea Collins, MSW**





End-Stage Renal Disease  
Network Program

# Network 6 Learning and Action Network Call

Andrea Collins, MSW  
January 23, 2024

*This material was prepared by the IPRO ESRD Network Program, comprising the ESRD Networks of New York, New England, the South Atlantic and the Ohio River Valley, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. Publication #*



# Agenda



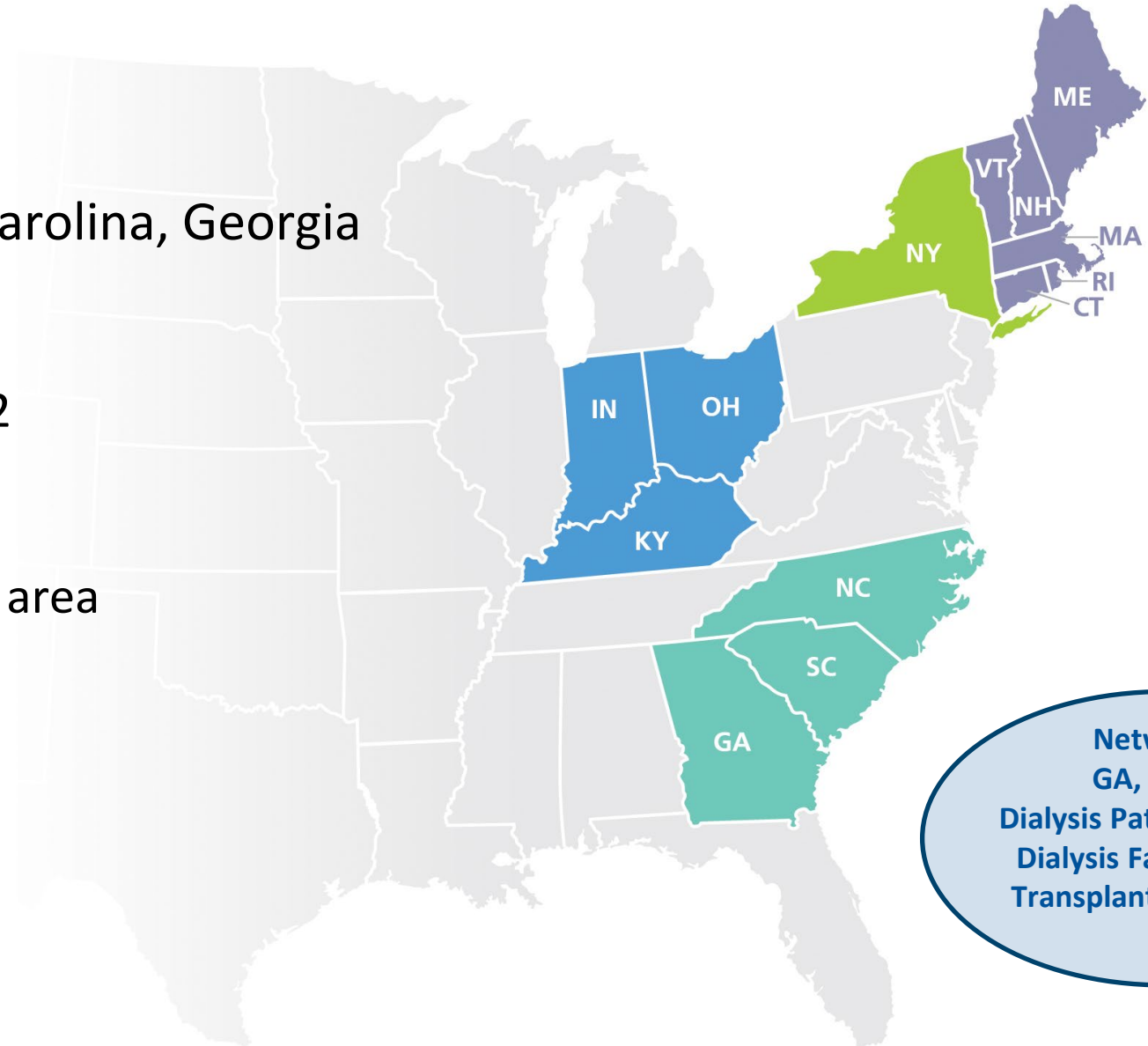
- Demographics
  - Network 6
  - Davita Mint Hill
- Intake and screening
- Identified barriers
- Intervention process and results

# Demographics

## Network 6



- North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia
  - Patients: 50,065
  - Dialysis facilities: 767
  - Transplant centers: 12
- Davita Mint Hill
  - Charlotte, NC - Urban area
  - Patients: 48



**Network 6**  
**GA, NC, SC**  
**Dialysis Patients: 50,065**  
**Dialysis Facilities: 767**  
**Transplant Centers: 12**

# Intake/Screening Process



- Interdisciplinary team approach (AA, SW, RN, RD, etc.)
- Initial assessment
  - Individual barriers identified
  - Collaboration with current supports for the patient (caregivers).
  - Education on available resources provided- connecting patient to patient's chosen resources





# Identified Barriers

- Transportation
- Food Insecurity
  - Options greatly depend on their natural resources- how can they access these resources? (Car, friend, family to prepare food).
- Housing
  - Setting realistic and honest expectations from the start about limitations in our community



# Intervention Process and Positive Results

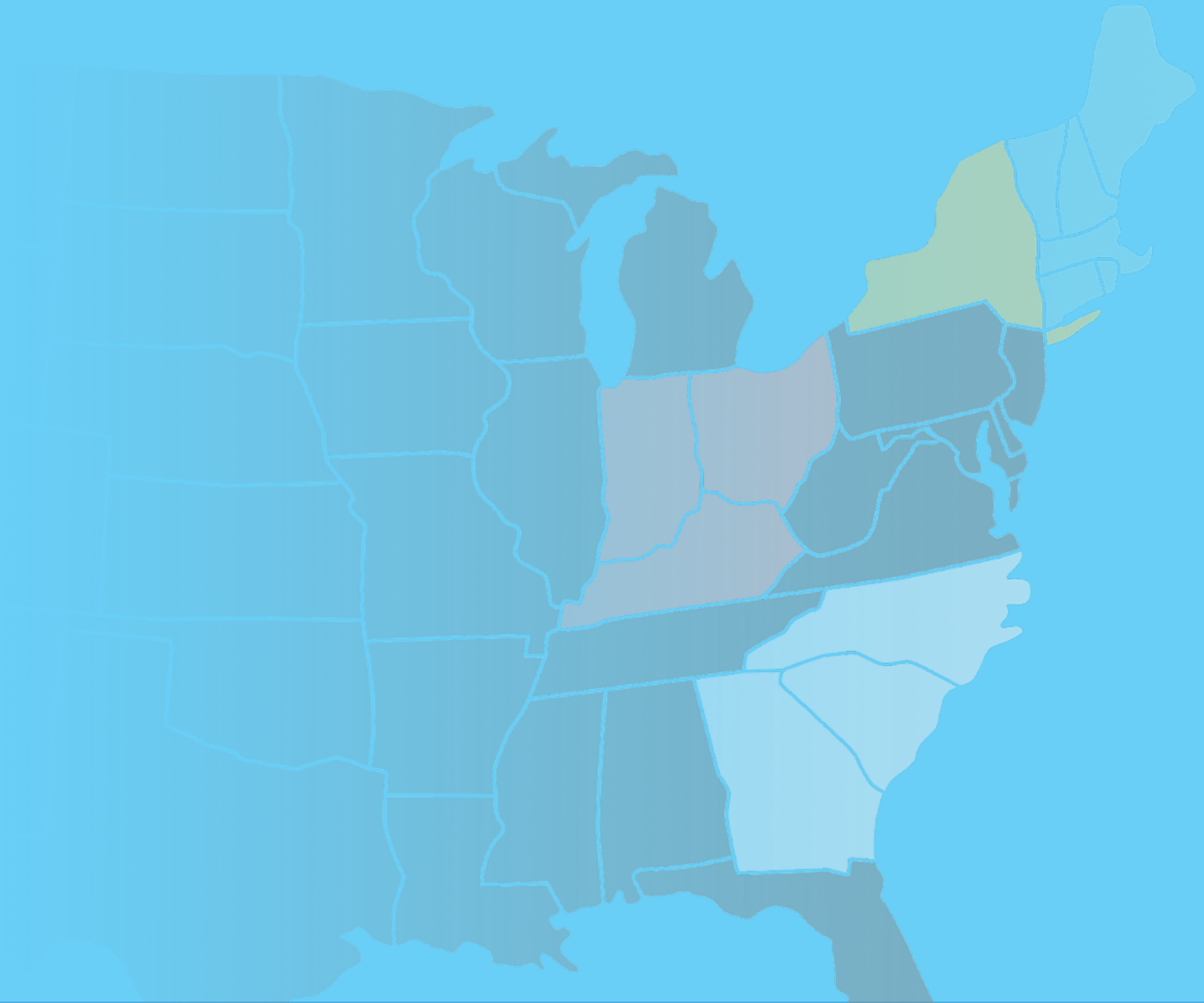
## Transportation



- Community partner collaborations- Local Social Services, Special Transportation services through city buses, Insurance provided rides
- Team approach - Empowering dialysis teammates to know how to reach transportation resources
- Education opportunity- Ensuring patients know their options and how to work with the limitations of their resources
- Patient empowerment
  - Improved compliance to dialysis treatment
  - Become invested in their own health
  - Gained new skills and independence

# Questions?

Andrea Collins, MSW



# Thank you!



**End-Stage Renal Disease  
Network Program**

**IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease  
Network Program Corporate Office:**  
1979 Marcus Avenue, Lake Success, NY 11042-1072  
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*This material was prepared by the IPRO ESRD Network Program, comprising the ESRD Networks of New York, New England, the South Atlantic and the Ohio River Valley, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. Publication #*

# **Network 4: Quality Insights Delaware and Pennsylvania**





# Language Equity at DaVita Warren

Health Equity Learning and Action Network



## Inclusivity

Communication that **centers the patient's point of view** and **helps them understand and be understood.**

## Patient Safety

Language concordance between patients and providers helps to **prevent medical errors, hospitalizations, bias, and low treatment adherence.**

Language



Equity

## Belonging

Language can make people feel like they **belong**, or be used to discriminate and **advance inequities and disparities.**

## Accessibility

Language equity is supported by the **level of access** provided through translation and interpretation services.

# DaVita Warren

## *Language Equity Champion*

- Identified and scaled a method of communication to effectively communicate with a patient who is deaf and blind
- Patient is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL); 2 DaVita Warren staff able to communicate in sign language
- Facility Social Worker used the ASL alphabet to train all staff on basic words in ASL
- Patient engages in her care by verbally asking questions and informing staff of her concerns
- Responses are spelled on the patients arm and the “teach back” method is applied to confirm understanding
- Visiting teammates also taught this method of communication to ensure the patient is involved in her care and language equity is in place





Questions?



Quality  
Insights

Renal Network 4

# **Network 5: Quality Insights**

## **Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, and West Virginia**

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# Breaking Down Language Barriers at DaVita Harrisonburg Dialysis Center

Health Equity LAN

# About DaVita Harrisonburg

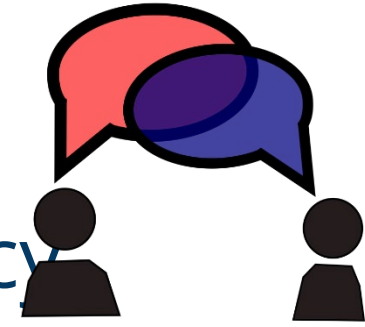
## Located in Harrisonburg, VA

- Rural, top 4 agricultural counties in Virginia
- Over 46 countries represented in the city
- Patients travel up to 1 hour to receive treatment

## Serves an Extremely Diverse Population

- 20% of patients speak only Spanish
- 1 patient speaks only Swahili

# Language Barriers



- Limited general and health literacy
  - Many of the Spanish-speaking patients also struggle with reading Spanish
- Family members are not reliable translators
- Missed information leads to increased hospitalizations and decreased quality of care

# Interventions

- Utilize Community Health Interpreter Services
  - Provide an in-person interpreter for Spanish and Swahili
  - Rounds with Physician Assistant every Monday and Tuesday
  - Also provide home trainings with the nursing team
- Videos in Spanish accessible to patients who struggle with reading
- Bilingual staff member who can assist with translation
- In the absence of Community Health Interpreter Services, Cryacom Language Solutions is utilized



A person in a suit is holding a smartphone. Overlaid on the image are several white icons: an envelope with an '@' symbol, a telephone handset with signal waves, and a speech bubble with three dots. The background is a blurred office setting.

Questions?

# Discussion



# ESRD NCC's Health Equity Change Package

## A Change Package To Improve Health Equity

Key Change Ideas for Dialysis Facilities to Drive Local Action

Released 2023

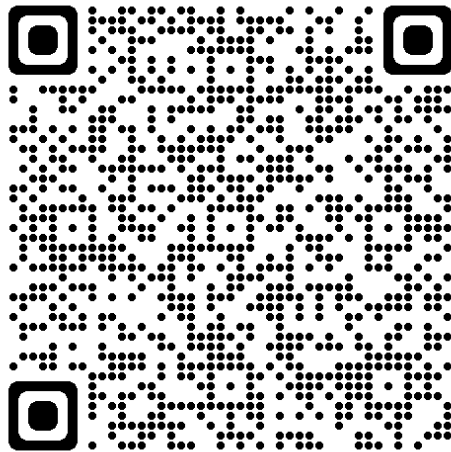


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# Moving from Learning to Action...

- Share best practices from this presentation with your colleagues.
- Use the ESRD NCC Changes Packages (i.e., Transplant, Home, Hospital, Vaccination, and Patient Experience of Care change package) as a supplementary resource to improve your patient outcomes and overall patient experience of care.
- [A Change Package To Improve Health Equity \(esrdncc.org\)](https://esrdncc.org)

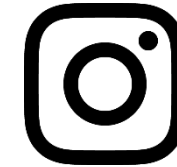


Use your phone's camera to scan QR code to go directly to the change package.

# Social Media and Website



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# Thank you!

Please take the post-call survey, the page will pop up when you close the meeting window.

