

Meeting summary for NCAFCC Region 4 Meeting (01/27/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting began with introductions and updates from member clinics, with a focus on addressing concerns about undocumented individuals and potential collaborations. The discussion then shifted to the challenges faced by these clinics, particularly in relation to immigration policies and misinformation on social media, with suggestions for partnerships and resources to combat these issues. The conversation ended with plans for future actions, including the distribution of a shared information sheet and survey, and the potential for a webinar with the Carolina Migrant Network.

Next steps

- Allison to distribute immigration toolkit and resources from Carolina Migrant Network to all members.
- Allison to send immigration resources to Cindy Cole immediately for her staff meeting.
- Laura to send Becca's contact information from Carolina Migrant Network to Cindy.
- Allison to reach out to Carolina Migrant Network to arrange a webinar for all members.
- Association members to inform the Association if any immigration enforcement activity occurs at their clinics.
- Members to put April 28-29, 2026 on their calendars for the next annual conference.
- Members to pay membership dues by the deadline (this Friday).
- Members to complete the annual survey on the web-based platform.
- Association to seek another State appropriation when the new legislative session starts.

Summary

New Year, Leadership Changes, Celebrations

In the meeting, Allison welcomed everyone to the new year and introduced Laura as the new region leader, thanking Margie for her previous service. Laura acknowledged the various national days, including Holocaust Remembrance Day, Vietnam Peace Day, National Bubble Wrap Day, and National Chocolate Cake Day. She also mentioned the upcoming Chinese New Year, which would be the year of the snake. Laura encouraged everyone to have a good day and a great week. Allison expressed her appreciation for Margie's past leadership and looked forward to Laura's new role.

Healthcare Professionals' Beliefs on Homelessness

In the meeting, Dr. Katie Wolsiefer and Kelsey Landgraff from Appalachian State University discussed their ongoing research project on healthcare professionals' beliefs about patients experiencing homelessness. The aim of the study is to measure these beliefs and develop interventions to improve patient care. The study will be conducted through an online survey, and participants will be recruited from healthcare professionals in North Carolina. The researchers are seeking to collect anonymous data between January and March and plan to publish the results in a social psychology or medical journal. They are open to different recruitment methods, including presenting at staff meetings or sending out emails. The study defines homelessness as not having a permanent address. The researchers acknowledged the potential for social desirability response bias but have implemented measures to encourage honest responses.

Community Clinic Updates and Collaborations

In the meeting, Allison and Laura led a discussion involving representatives from various community clinics. The main topics included sharing updates about their respective clinics, discussing potential collaborations, and addressing concerns about undocumented individuals experiencing anxiety. Dr. Wolsiefer and Kelsey were thanked for their contributions, and Allison committed to distributing a shared information sheet and survey via email. The conversation ended with a round of introductions, during which Laura announced that her clinic was being recognized as the Cabarrus County nonprofit of the year.

Addressing Concerns and Streamlining Care

Christina Olmsted, the new executive director at Healthquest of Union County, expressed her excitement about being part of the team. Brenda Vass, CEO of NC MedAssist discussed the need for a proactive approach to address concerns and offered to share their toolkit with other organizations. Cindy, CEO of Community Health Services, shared her concerns about the fear among her staff and patients, particularly the Hispanic patients in her clinic. Angela McMillan, executive director at Health Reach Community Clinic, echoed the concerns about the community's well-being. Angela Lizarazzo, the new dental coordinator, expressed her goal to streamline dental care for the clinics. Margie Lugibihl, Director of Hope Community Clinic, also shared her concerns about the current situation.

Personal Milestones and Professional Goals

Margie Lugibihl expressed her anticipation for warmer weather and her desire to alleviate stress for others. Lynn McRae, the Director of Projects at NCAFCC, shared her personal milestones of becoming a senior and planning a wedding, as well as her professional goal of expanding into the northeast section of the State with mobile primary care. Iris Hubbard, the Executive Director

of Shelter Health Services, discussed her organization's partnership with a Greek Orthodox priest to open a home for unwed mothers and homeless women. Lacie, who works at the Association, echoed the challenges of navigating unforeseen circumstances. Chris Vaughan, the director of John P. Murray Community Care Clinic, shared her clinic's significant impact from Medicaid expansion and his plans to retire at the end of the year. Alice Mae expressed her delight at joining the meeting.

Annual Conference and Membership Updates

Allison Kelly, Director of Operations, discusses plans for the next annual conference, which will be held on April 28-29, 2026, switching to a springtime schedule. She reminds members about the upcoming deadline for membership dues payment this Friday and advises checking spam folders for invoices sent from account.services@inform.bill.com. Allison also expresses her desire to create more opportunities for membership gatherings and to address members' needs, particularly regarding training and expert insights.

Annual Survey, Dues, and Immigration

In the meeting, Brenda and Allison discussed the process of calculating dues. Cindy reminded everyone that the survey should be completed on the web-based platform and not the preparatory version. Allison also mentioned that they will be seeking another State appropriation this year and that they will hear from their lobbyist, Logan Martin, during the next region meeting. The topic of immigration was also discussed, with Laura sharing her clinic's experience with the Carolina Migrant Network and Sarah offering to share resources she received over the weekend. The team agreed to distribute these resources to everyone.

Addressing Challenges and Misinformation

Krista expressed concern about the situation. Sarah shared that they had seen false information on TikTok and suggested that it was hard to determine what was true. Brenda discussed the challenges faced by their organization, which serves a predominantly Hispanic population, including funded projects targeting farm workers. She expressed concern about how to conduct outreach without drawing attention to those who want to remain hidden, and how to maintain viability as a business amidst these challenges. Cindy Cole asked for guidance on discerning what information is real and what is not.

Immigration Policies and Patient Safety

Cindy Cole expressed concern about the safety of her staff and patients, particularly those with undocumented parents, in the wake of recent immigration policies. Laura clarified that immigration officers need a warrant to enter a clinic, and only specific rooms can be accessed. Krista highlighted the backlog of immigration cases and the potential for legal challenges to Trump's policies. Brenda emphasized the importance of educating people about their rights and

combating misinformation. Cindy Cole agreed to review the red card provided by Laura, which outlines patients' rights.

Partnership With Hispanic Organizations Discussed

In the meeting, Laura suggested partnering with local Hispanic or Latinx organizations for better insight and understanding of community concerns. Cindy planned to produce red cards for her staff meeting and requested information on the Carolina Immigration Resource. Laura agreed to provide Cindy with Becca's contact information for the Monroe area. Allison asked the group if it would be helpful to schedule a webinar with the Carolina Migrant Network, which received positive responses. Krista emphasized the need for resources and support, and Allison agreed to follow up with the group. The conversation ended with plans to be in touch soon.