



healthcurrent

# Update

January 2019

## Improving Native American Healthcare in Northern Arizona



Managing epileptic and other high-needs patients across a broad rural area brings significant challenges, but Dr. Michael Stitzer along with other medical professionals of the Winslow Indian Health Care Center (WIHCC) have found a valuable resource in the ability to track these patients and access critical patient data through Health Current, Arizona's health information exchange (HIE). Dr. Stitzer and more than 400 other specialists and medical professionals serve an active patient population of 17,000 and a geographic area that includes more than 60,000 Native Americans in northern Arizona.

Located 60 miles east of Flagstaff in Winslow, WIHCC, a Tribal Contract or Compact Health Center, is an outpatient facility operated under the federal Indian Self-Determination Act that helps provide medical care for Native Americans. The facility offers more services than many other facilities of its size, including behavioral health, dental services, women's health, neurology, cardiology, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, diabetes treatment and much more. They have two satellite facilities on the Navajo Reservation with over 45 medical staff. [Read more here.](#)

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## Governor Ducey Appoints New AHCCCS Director

Arizona Governor, Doug Ducey, recently announced the appointment of Jami Snyder as the new Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Director, effective January 5, 2019.

Governor Ducey cited Snyder's 20-plus years of experience in the health and human services industry and her prior experience leading a state Medicaid agency as outstanding qualifications for the new position. "I am pleased that Jami will bring

She also previously held posts as an Operations Administrator at AHCCCS and a Bureau Chief at the Arizona Department of Health Services. Snyder will succeed Tom Betlach who retired as Director of AHCCCS on January 4, 2019 after 27 years of service to the state of Arizona.

her unique insight and expertise to Arizona’s Medicaid agency, which provides quality health care to over 1.8 million Arizonans,” Ducey said.

Snyder has served as deputy director of AHCCCS since December of 2017. Prior to joining Arizona’s Medicaid agency, she served as Medicaid Director for the state of Texas and as Chief Operating Officer of the University of Arizona Health Plans.



Jami Snyder, AHCCCS Director

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## Health Current Announces 2019 Board of Directors

Health Current is pleased to announce several new appointments to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee following a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors meeting on January 22, 2019.

The Board of Directors approved the nomination of Jami Snyder, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to the Board and Executive Committee and accepted the resignation of Tom Betlach, former Director, AHCCCS. “We are very thankful for the leadership and dedication Mr. Betlach provided to Health Current while serving on our Board. Mr. Betlach has been an exemplary advocate and champion for health information exchange in our state,” said Melissa Kotrys, CEO, Health Current. “We look forward to working with Ms. Snyder in her new role at AHCCCS and as a member of our Board and Executive Committee,” Kotrys said.

The Board also approved the nomination of Sheri Jackson, Chief Nursing Officer, VP Operations Engineering at BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona to the Board and approved two Board Officer nominations. Scott Cummings, State President, Arizona, Care1<sup>st</sup> Health Plan Arizona, was approved as Board Treasurer, and Christy Dye, President & CEO, Partners in Recovery, was approved as Board Vice Chair.

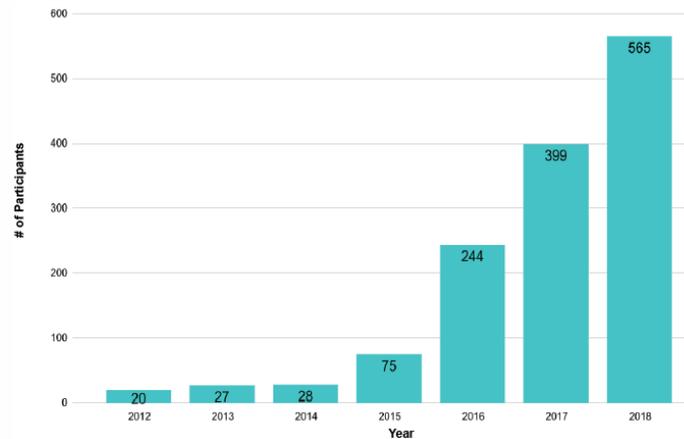
Several Advisory Council appointments were also approved during the Board meeting. The Health Current Board of Directors is comprised of Arizona’s leading healthcare executives and leaders, with representation from hospitals, laboratories, health plans, employers, higher education institutions and other key healthcare stakeholders. For a full list of Health Current Board Members click [here](#) and Advisory Councils click [here](#).

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## 2018 Another Year of Strong Growth for Health Current

Health Current continued its rapid growth in 2018, making it the fastest growing Health Information Exchange (HIE) nationally over the past three years. Health Current’s addition of 160 Participants last year followed an addition of 156 Participants in 2017 and 167 Participants in 2016 – a rate of growth of 643 percent over three years! This growth can be attributed to a couple of key incentive programs as well as other work to make it easier for Participants to connect to the HIE.

First, in 2016 the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) began to offer a value-based payment rate differential to hospitals that joined and began providing data to the HIE. This program was expanded in 2017 to include long-term acute care, psychiatric and rehabilitation facilities. In addition, a Statewide HIE Integration Plan (SHIP), with financial support from all three regional behavioral health authorities (RBHAs), began a two-year plan in 2016 to connect the top 100 behavioral health providers to the HIE. These programs were completed in 2017 and 2018 but contributed to significant growth. [Read more here.](#)



## New Desktop Application Helps Long-Term and Post-Acute Providers

Health Current recently introduced a simple desktop application, the Health Current Gateway, that enables the secure movement of data between Participants and Health Current, without the need for a complex, expensive interface. This application is an ideal solution for long-term and post-acute care providers that submit assessment information to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as part of their payment process, according to Catelyn Nguyen, Sr. Manager, Account & Project Management at Health Current.



**Health Current Gateway**

The Health Current Gateway, powered by Vorro Health, extracts Minimum Data Set (MDS) and Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) information from the Participants' electronic health record (EHR) systems and pulls them into the Health Current Gateway where they are converted into Continuity of Care Documents (CCDs) that can be exchanged electronically.

This desktop application removes a barrier faced by many long-term and post-acute care providers who would otherwise face expenses that would impede their ability to share information through Health Current, according to Nguyen. The Health Current Gateway is expected to assist in the increased participation and data sharing of long-term and post-acute care providers. In the future, Health Current anticipates that this desktop application could also be applied to assist small and specialty practices in participation and data sharing, Nguyen added.

## Join Our Team!

Health Current is looking for dynamic people to join our team. We offer a great work environment along with

medical, dental, vision and 401(k) benefits.

Current Positions Available:

- Technical Account Manager
- Integration Engineer
- Application Developer



Visit our [Career Center](#) to see the job descriptions. Please submit your resume and cover letter to [resumes@healthcurrent.org](mailto:resumes@healthcurrent.org).

Health Current is an equal opportunity employer. AA/EOE, M/F/D/V

