

8<sup>th</sup> District Branch Council Report  
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Reimbursement for SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment) continues to be a challenge in WNY with only Aetna, Univera and Medicaid currently paying physicians for use of this evidence based program which is used to identify, reduce and prevent use, abuse and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. The MSCE continues to work with the other local insurers to determine what steps can be taken to assure payment is authorized.

Lifetime Health Medical Group, a part of the Lifetime Healthcare Companies, which also operates Excellus BlueCross/Blue Shield recently closed 3 locations in the Buffalo area, citing a shortage of primary care physicians in WNY and declining financial performance as the reason for closing. Letters were sent to 43,000 patients who had accessed care in the last 3 years. The MSCE continues to provide assistance to the patients who were advised to contact the Society to locate the services of a new physician.

The District wishes to congratulate Ms. Christine Nadolny on her selection as the 2017 Recipient of the AMA's Lifetime Achievement Award. AMA's Board Chair, Doctor Gerald Harmon presented Chris her award at the Interim Meeting in Honolulu on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The MSCE in collaboration with the Bar Association of Erie County and the National Association of Women Business Owners, are presenting a Transformational Leadership. This program will provide insight and guidance for women who aspire to become leaders in business, medicine, law and education. Among the speakers are Aviva Abramovsky (Dean, UB Law School), Nancy H. Nielsen, MD (Sr. Associate Dean, Jacobs School of Medicine); Hon. Rose Sconiers (Former Justice, Appellate Division NYS Supreme Court); Althea Luehrsen (Executive Director, Leadership Buffalo); Claudine Ewing (WGRZ News); Catherine Collins (Regent, NYS Education Dept.); Leslie Feidt (Chief Information Officer, ECMCC). The event will take place on March 10, 2018 in the auditorium of the Bar Association of Erie County.

Optimum Physician Alliance, LLC, (OPA) has announced that as of January 1, 2018 they will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Kaleida Health. In 2012, OPA was established as a joint venture with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of WNY. Over 600 physicians participate in a clinically integrated system of care to improve the quality of care and clinical outcomes. OPA provides administrative support through assistance in practice transformation (Population health, PCMH, PCSP, self-reporting, incentive opportunities and customized training for administrative staff. OPA also provides assistance to patients in areas of nutrition education, weight management, smoking cessation, disease prevention and free wellness education classes.

Eastern Niagara Hospital (Lockport) has applied to the NYS Department of Health for approval to allow Eastern Niagara to become a full member of Kaleida

Health. If approved, the reorganization will bring the 136 bed hospital, an outpatient/urgent care facility in Newfane, and an ambulatory surgery/primary care practice to Kaleida. The relationship adds a chemical dependency program and a referral base of patients who need acute services which can be provided at other hospitals in the system.