

Media Placement Highlights

April 13 – May 10, 2019

Notable media placements:

Journal of AHIMA

“Investing in Apprenticeships Pays Dividends for Employers” – May 2019

<https://bok.ahima.org/doc?oid=302720>

- The AHIMA Foundation was awarded a \$4.9 million federal grant through the US Department of Labor (DOL) to fund the Managing the Talent Pipeline in Health Information Apprenticeship Program, which has helped more than 100 employers fill staffing gaps and upskill current employees since the program began in 2015.
- At LCHD, two charge capture analysts and two billing specialists have participated in the program, helping them understand how coded data affects reimbursement, medical necessity, and quality improvement.
- LCHD's Shalina Richie, RHIA, HIM coordinator and privacy officer said that 'Apprenticeship improves employee retention. "It's truly an investment that we're making in these employees to not only further their careers, but also in terms of being able to retain that knowledge," she says. "Our patient population, the services we provide, and our payer mix are very unique to our organization."

Patch

“Lake County Addresses Mental Health Crisis” – May 8, 2019

<https://patch.com/illinois/grayslake/lake-county-addresses-mental-health-crisis>

- To expand behavioral health capacity in Lake County, the County Board authorized an agreement with Wold Architects and Engineers for architectural/engineering design services for a Lake County Wellness Care and Drop Off Center Study.
- The study will analyze current resources, space requirements, and program constraints, and offer options and alternatives for how a Wellness Care and Drop Off Center might work in Lake County.
- 'In 2018, the Lake County Health Department received 4,289 crisis calls from persons seeking mental health assistance. Even though the need is great, currently, the only options available for law enforcement officers responding to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis are transportation to jail for low-level offenses or to a hospital emergency department.'
- Lake County hosted a full-day workshop at the end of April with law enforcement, health care providers, and stakeholders in the mental health field to discuss the issue. Video recap of the workshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR5HDw67OwQ>

Daily Herald

"U.S. senators, representatives ask for air testing in Lake County" – May 3, 2019

<https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20190503/us-senators-representatives-ask-for-air-testing-in-lake-county>

- Illinois U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, and U.S. representatives Brad Schneider, Bill Foster, Dan Lipinski, Sean Casten and Lauren Underwood have petitioned the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct air monitoring in Lake County for ethylene oxide.
- Lake County Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister petitioned ATSDR in March to perform a health risk assessment based on ambient air quality sampling results, which are expected to be collected in June 2019 by a vendor to be hired by Village of Gurnee, City of Waukegan, and Lake County. On April 10, 2019, ATSDR agreed to complete the health risk assessment.
- 'As a result of the inaction from state and federal agencies so far, the health department opted to create a monitoring program. Gurnee and Waukegan officials are expected to vote on contracts for the work this month.'

Lake County News-Sun

"Lake County focuses on outreach following measles case that crossed Lake-Cook border" – April 15, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-lake-county-measles-reaction-st-0416-story.html>

- As of April 15, 2019, there have been seven confirmed cases of the measles in Illinois this year.
- Lake County has not had a confirmed case of measles, but 'a Cook County resident traveled into the county while potentially contagious, Lake County Health Department medical epidemiologist Sana Ahmed said. Most of the county's response has been focused on investigating who might have been exposed in that case and determining whether they should be vaccinated, Ahmed added.'
- LCHD has been conducting outreach to health care providers to alert them of the rise in measles cases, encouraging them to check their patients' vaccination status. Next steps include a communications outreach strategy to the community at large, as well as outreach to unvaccinated patients of LCHD health centers.
- Most of the 28 schools in Lake County that do not have at least 95 percent of their students vaccinated against measles are private schools, according to Illinois State Board of Education data for the current school year.

Total Media Placements

April 13 – May 10, 2019

Press Releases Sent	4
Press Release Placements	17
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	11