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CHES Health Partners with Staten Island Performing Provider System and Staten Island Borough President James Oddo to Address Substance Abuse Epidemic

Partnership Brings Technology-enabled Relapse Prevention to SI PPS Network

CHES Health, a leading technology provider serving addiction treatment and relapse prevention, today announced it has partnered with Staten Island Performing Provider System (SI PPS), an alliance of clinical and social service providers serving Medicaid and uninsured populations of Staten Island residents, and Staten Island Borough President James Oddo. The partnership was struck to leverage CHES Health's A-CHES Platform, including the Connections smartphone app, to enhance drug prevention and substance abuse treatment programs in SI PPS's partner network across the borough.

The A-CHES Platform including the Connections smartphone app, uses relapse prevention tools and condition-specific content to enable patients and their care team, including peer specialists, to connect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This facilitates proactive, continuous engagement and faster intervention.

"We are delighted to join SI PPS and Borough President Oddo in their efforts to fight substance abuse in the Staten Island area," said Hans Morefield, chief executive officer at CHES Health. "One of the biggest obstacles to treatment success is relapse shortly after treatment. A-CHES gives patients the tools to avoid relapse, right in their pocket."

"We see the A-CHES Platform as an integral part of our substance abuse treatment strategy," said Ashley Blauvelt, director of project management at SI PPS. "Preventing relapse is essential to providing high quality care and avoiding preventable hospital admissions and readmissions" SI PPS is one of 25 systems across New York State that receives funding through a Medicaid redesign grant via the New York State Department of Health for the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. DSRIP is an initiative with a goal to reduce preventable hospitalizations by 25% by 2020, and one that leverages technological innovation to improve outcomes for populations with chronic conditions like substance abuse disorders.

"Our partners enthusiastically embraced the concept of the CHES platform" said Joseph Conte, PhD Executive Director of the PPS. Victoria Njoku-Anokom Director of Behavioral Health programs added "We see this as a compliment to the Peer programs and resource and recovery centers that the PPS supports, these initiatives have significantly reduced preventable ER utilization and dramatically increased the number of individuals initiating and sustaining recovery"

"Our office is determined to leave no stone unturned in our efforts to combat the opioid epidemic on Staten Island," said Borough President Oddo. When my staff presented their research highlighting the effectiveness of the A-CHES Platform and corresponding smartphone app, it became clear that this tool could be a game-changer for the borough's treatment community. Of course, we turned to one of our most dependable partners, the SI PPS, to jointly fund this pilot effort which we anticipate will save lives."

The Borough President's Office has been on the front lines in the battle against opioid abuse from introducing evidence-based prevention programs into Staten Island's schools to increasing access to life-saving Naloxone to an ongoing major data initiative in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and Northwell Health. CHESS Health is eager to contribute its expertise and proven platform to amplify the impact of these comprehensive efforts.

A-CHESS will be part of a year-long pilot program jointly funded by SI PPS and the Staten Island Borough President's Office, to provide a continuum of services to recovery centers, outpatient counseling, inpatient detox, residential treatment and other recovery groups. Per Blauvelt, "We chose CHESS Health in part based on the need to provide data to validate outcomes from the pilot, a requirement to substantiate financial support to PPS partners for the grant."

About CHESS Health

CHESS Health creates innovative solutions designed at the intersection of science, technology and recovery. Founded by nationally recognized substance abuse researcher Dr. Dave Gustafson, CHESS developed the A-CHESS Platform, the leading evidence-based relapse prevention technology. By integrating A-CHESS into treatment plans, clinicians, case managers and recovery coaches can best support those in recovery with access to predictive relapse analytics, condition-specific content and access to live support, reducing relapse by 50 percent while decreasing costs and saving lives. Founded in 2014, CHESS Health has quickly positioned itself as a leader in the mHealth space, receiving recognition from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), the Journal of Substance Abuse and the Surgeon General. To learn more about CHESS Health and the A-CHESS platform, visit www.chess.health.

About Staten Island Performing Provider System

The Staten Island Performing Provider System (SI PPS) is a limited liability corporation formed by Richmond University Medical Center and Staten Island University Hospital to implement the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program on Staten Island. DSRIP is a program of the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to improve the quality of care for Medicaid patients and the uninsured, with the primary goal of reducing avoidable hospital use by 25% over 5 years. Up to \$6.42 billion dollars are allocated to the New York State DSRIP programs with payment to each system based upon performance in system transformation, clinical management and population health. Over 60 healthcare agencies and community-based organizations are partnering with the SI PPS, LLC to undertake the DSRIP program on Staten Island. The mission of the SI PPS is to engage partners and stakeholders in the planning and implementation of DSRIP. <http://www.statenislandpps.org/>

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