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*Quarterly*



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The HopeHealth Advocacy Committee met with Rep. Robert Williams during the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association Policy & Issues Forum in January.

## Advocacy in Action

Every March, thousands of health center advocates travel to Washington DC for the National Association for Community Health Centers Policy & Issues Forum. This year's Forum was particularly critical since health center funding expires Sept. 30.

Hundreds of meetings took place with congressional members to request reauthorization of long-term health center funding, which would extend funding for a period of five years.

While health center advocates were on The Hill holding in-person meetings with lawmakers, National Call-In Day was creating significant impact with nearly 6,000 phone calls and emails being made by advocates with the same request to reauthorize long-term health center funding.

"Having a strong advocacy network has proven to work in favor of health centers for many years," explained Tiffany Straus, HopeHealth director

of community relations. "Not only have health center advocates helped us keep our federal funding a priority in Washington, we've also had a lot of support locally by positioning us as a key resource for the community."

The HopeHealth Advocacy Committee continues to stay focused on registering patients, staff, and community members as health center advocates, but this year will be taking it one step further by working to register patients and staff to vote.

"We constantly work to educate our stakeholders on the importance of being advocates, but if I'm completely honest, we aren't doing enough if we aren't also making sure our advocates are registered voters," explained Straus. "We've got to get our patients and supporters to the polls in order to keep the important work of health centers a priority in this country for years to come."

**To become an advocate, visit [headvocacy.org](http://headvocacy.org)**

## Register to Vote

To vote in South Carolina the law requires residents to register to vote at least 30 days prior to the election. To be eligible to register you must:

- be a United States citizen
- be at least 18 years of age on or before the next election
- be a resident of South Carolina
- not be under a court order declaring you mentally incompetent
- not be confined in any public prison resulting from a conviction of a crime
- have never been convicted of a felony or offense against the election laws OR if previously convicted, have served the entire sentence, including probation or parole, or have received a pardon for the conviction

To learn more about registering to vote, visit [www.scvotes.org](http://www.scvotes.org).

## SAVE the DATE!

**National Health Center Week | August 4-10, 2019**

**Visit [healthcenterweek.org](http://healthcenterweek.org) for updates**



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## compassionate care ♥ fund

The compassionate care fund was established in April 2011 to assist patients with unmet needs, such as the cost of vision appointments, eyeglasses, specialty care, surgery, prescription drugs, and emergency assistance.



☐ \$20      ☐ \$50      ☐ \$100      ☐ \$500  
☐ \$1000      ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I've enclosed a check payable to HopeHealth.

**Donate online:**  
[hope-health.org/donate](https://hope-health.org/donate)

☐ Please charge my credit card:

☐ Visa      ☐ AMEX      ☐ Master Card

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of (name of deceased):  
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(name of individual):  
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to commemorate \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

HopeHealth is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to HopeHealth are tax-deductible according to current IRS laws. Mail donations to: HopeHealth Community Relations, 360 North Irby Street, Florence, SC 29501.

**Yes, I would like to make a donation to HopeHealth's compassionate care fund.**



# Supporting Our Veterans

HopeHealth is one of many organizations working to improve and expand the services and resources available to Veterans.

In January 2019, HopeHealth officially launched its Veterans engagement initiative. This initiative is designed to increase care and support for current Veteran patients.

It is important that surrounding communities are aware that HopeHealth is available, accessible, and equipped to provide care to all individuals who have served in the U.S. military.

Shawn Maxwell, project coordinator, and Henry Humphries, Veterans volunteer, are working with every HopeHealth location to identify specific ways to better engage their



**Shawn Maxwell, project coordinator, serves as a community guest presenter during the March meeting of the Pee Dee Area Veterans Advisory Council.**

Veteran patients: activities include making a Veteran liaison available during medical visits, providing Veteran peer support groups, and hosting staff trainings.

HopeHealth joined the Pee Dee Area Veterans Advisory Council and served as the community guest presenter for March. HopeHealth has also collaborated with the National Guard Service Member Family Care Program of Florence to host a Veterans focus group.

Additionally, HopeHealth will begin hosting a series open to the community known as Veterans with Hope this summer. This program, modeled on our successful Seniors with Hope series, is designed to address the health and social needs and interests of Veterans, and to support those who care for and about Veterans.

To learn more about HopeHealth's work with Veterans or to join our Veterans Advisory Council, contact Maxwell at [shawn@hope-health.org](mailto:shawn@hope-health.org).



▲ Social workers gather at several HopeHealth locations for a few moments in March to recognize Social Workers Month.

▲ From left, Tammie Pough and Toni Marie Wilson accompany Antonia Graves as she is presented a resolution recognizing HopeHealth social workers from Florence Mayor Stephen Wukela.

## City Resolution Recognizes HopeHealth Social Workers

Florence Mayor Stephen Wukela read a resolution recognizing “the extraordinary contributions of the profession of social work within HopeHealth” at the March 11 city council meeting. Wukela presented the honor to Antonia Graves.

“It was a proud moment for our HopeHealth social workers,” said Sallie Bachman, Chief of Special Programs. “Writing the resolution was a joy and an honor for me as I considered the value and impact that Social Workers have had, and will continue to have, at HopeHealth.”





## | STD AWARENESS | MONTH

April is a time to raise awareness about sexually transmitted diseases and a time to take action to protect your own health.

Three common STDs, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis, have increased sharply across the U.S. for the fourth consecutive year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The good news? All STDs can be prevented and treated, and most can be cured.

Chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis are all curable, yet most cases go undiagnosed and untreated – which can lead to severe health problems and increased HIV risk.

Anyone who has sex can get an STD, but some groups are more affected than others: young people aged 15-24, gay and bisexual men, and pregnant women.

Three actions help protect against STDs: Talk, Test, and Treat.

- Talk openly with your partner and health care provider about sex and STDs.
- Get tested. Because many STDs have no symptoms, getting tested is the only way to know for sure if you have an infection.
- If you test positive for an STD, work with your doctor to get the correct treatment. Some STDs can be cured with the right medication. Those that aren't curable can be treated.

HopeHealth will be out in communities throughout April educating people on the importance of getting screened and tested for STDs and hosting testing events. Look for details online at [hope-health.org/events](http://hope-health.org/events).

Walk-in testing is available year-round at HopeHealth in Aiken, Manning, and Orangeburg, as well as at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence. Walk-in testing hours vary by location. Visit [hope-health.org](http://hope-health.org) or call 843-667-9414 for details.

## Hepatitis Testing



May is Hepatitis Awareness Month, and May 19 marks National Hepatitis C Testing Day.

An estimated 2.4 million people in the U.S. are living with hepatitis C, but most do not know they are infected. Chronic hepatitis is a leading cause of liver cancer. Testing saves lives and is especially recommended for those who:

- were born between 1945 – 1965
- received blood or organs before 1992
- have ever injected drugs
- have liver disease or abnormal liver tests
- have certain conditions such as liver disease, HIV, etc.

**Take control. Get tested.**

**(803) 535-2271 | (843) 667-9414**

Call for more information.

## NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

Get Tested | share your story  
use hashtag **#DoingIt MyWay**



**When | June 27**

**Mt Zion Apartments**  
621 Ervin Court  
Florence, SC 29506  
1 – 5 pm

**Walgreens**  
726 South Irby Street  
Florence, SC 29501  
1 – 5 pm

## Latino Services Partners with Poyner Adult Education

The Latino Services Department has established a dynamic partnership with Poyner Adult Education Center in Florence under the guidance of **Gabriel Cardona**, Latino Services Manager.

The workshops and training sessions with the ESL (English as a Second Language) classes introduce HopeHealth services to participants and assist them with their English learning process. To date, sessions include:

- Latino Services; Behavioral Health Services for multicultural communities by **Meridith Graham**, a behavioral health consultant in Kingstree
- Nutrition and Chronic Diseases with **Anita Longan**, registered dietitian/nutritionist
- HIV and hepatitis C education and screenings with Cecilia Marin, a community health worker at the Medical Plaza

Future monthly and bi-monthly sessions will include additional HopeHealth departments.

## YOUR HEALTH BEGINS HERE

HopeHealth unveiled a new tag line April 1 that reflects the core values of the company and reinforces our commitment to providing primary, preventive and specialty health services to our patients.

The new tag line, "Your Health Begins Here," helps focus on the first of our core strategy priorities: our customers.



If you require updated logo files, email Grayson Markle in the community relations department at [gmarkle@hope-health.org](mailto:gmarkle@hope-health.org).



Anita Longan conducts a telehealth session from the HopeHealth Medical Plaza for diabetes education with patients at HopeHealth in Manning.

## Diabetes Educator Named Top In State

Chronic Disease  
Prevention Symposium

Anita Longan was named Certified Diabetes Educator of the Year at the 17th Annual Chronic Disease Prevention Symposium in Myrtle Beach. Longan is a registered dietitian nutritionist and diabetes educator at the Diabetes & Nutrition Institute at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence.

The award is presented by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control each year to recognize excellence in diabetes education and service to the diabetes community.

Longan has more than 25 years experience in nutrition counseling and diabetes education. She helps individuals and groups learn how to balance physical activity and diet to manage their overall health. She teaches all aspects of diabetes education and specializes in teaching advanced carbohydrate counting to those managing diabetes with insulin pumps or multiple daily insulin injections.

"There are a lot of deserving diabetes educators out there," said Longan. "I really feel like it is recognition for all of HopeHealth because we wouldn't have a diabetes education program if it wasn't for the support of our leadership and the awesome team we have at the Diabetes & Nutrition Institute."

Longan has been instrumental in achieving accreditation for two diabetes education programs and building the diabetes education program at HopeHealth. She has helped pioneer telehealth for medical nutrition therapy and Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support at HopeHealth and helped expand telehealth options to three HopeHealth locations in Florence, Clarendon, and Williamsburg counties.

For more about diabetes programs, visit [hope-health.org/diabetes](http://hope-health.org/diabetes).