

# News from the Collaborative

## Featured Content



### Partners in Health: What You Should Know About the Latest COVID-19 Surge and Delta Variant

In a sign that the current COVID-19 surge is escalating further, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Tuesday **recommended** that even people who are vaccinated against the virus wear masks indoors in some regions of the country. The guidance comes as case rates steadily rise across the nation, driven by the more contagious Delta variant.

The CDC's change of course on masking comes just days after Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, described the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic in dire terms, **telling CNN** that the country is "going in the wrong direction."

With more than half the U.S. not fully vaccinated, we asked Partners In Health's Dr. Bram Wispelwey, Senior Technical Lead for the U.S. Public Health Accompaniment Unit, to answer a few key questions about what's driving the current COVID surge, "breakthrough" infections, and what actions the public might take to protect themselves and their communities.

[Click to read full article](#)



## **Working with the Community to Improve Health Outcomes: Investing in Quality Improvement**

**by Grant Botley, Data Administrator, HCGC**

HCGC's Care Coordination Program, the Central Ohio Pathways HUB (the HUB) has experienced exponential growth since we began managing it in March of 2019. As a result of the increase in community need indicated by the continuous increase in clients served, HCGC seized the opportunity to introduce a quality improvement process designed to better serve HUB clients and maintain the viability of the Pathways HUB Model. HCGC has historically incorporated quality improvement principles into all of our organization's work, and is excited to continue this process with the HUB. HUB staff have selected a variety of Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives, with the goal of increasing capacity to serve more clients from referral QI processes being implemented by our Care Coordination Agency's (CCAs) under the leadership of HUB staff at HCGC.

Implementing a QI process for the HUB is multifaceted. The primary goal for all the CCAs is to maintain an acceptable ratio of billable to unbillable services by increasing enrollment rates of clients that are being referred into the HUB. We know that the longer it takes to be contacted by a CHW, the less likely a potential client is to continue with the enrollment process. Without adequate billable services, the Pathways HUB model is not sustainable, leaving our most vulnerable populations at further risk of poor health outcomes due to lack of access. Implementing a 48-hour time frame from referral to enrollment by a CHW is vital to ensuring that at-risk clients are welcomed into the HUB and begin the process of being connected to vital care and services to set them on a course to success.

[\*\*Read the full post HCGC's Blog Page\*\*](#)

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# Congratulations!



To HCGC's  
**Communications Manager,**  
**McKenzie Carter,**  
on successfully completing her  
**Masters of Communication!**

## Partner News and Events

[Can Improving Access to Health Care boost Franklinton's Low Life Expectancy Rates?](#)

[Researchers Remove Race from Childbirth Calculator in Effort to Advance Equity](#)

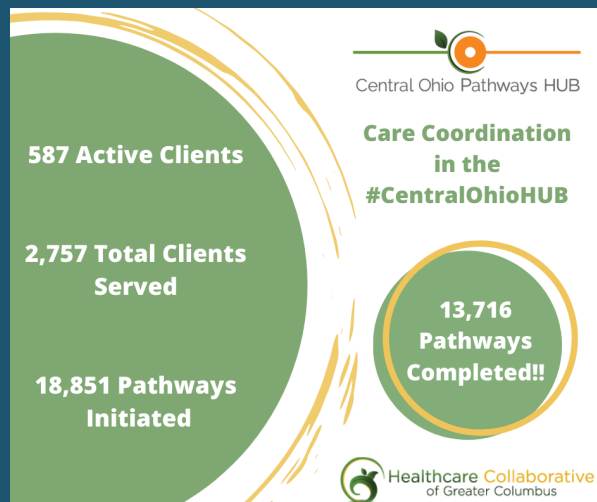
[PIH's Five S's: Essential Elements for Strong Health Systems](#)

[Primary Care Will Play Crucial Role in Getting Vaccination Efforts Across the Finish Line](#)

[Connections Between Criminal Justice and Health](#)

[YMCA Employment Opportunities](#)

## Central Ohio Pathways HUB Data Update



## Monthly Meeting Resources

LOOKING FOR



RESOURCES?

Following each Monthly Meeting and Regional Learning Session, the agenda, speaker information, slide deck and other relevant resources are uploaded to the HCGC website for your reference. [View resources.](#)

For a Calendar of Events visit:  
<http://www.hcgc.org/events.html>

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