

## Intersectoral Community Health Improvement Collaborative

**The goal of this 2016 Georgia Watch Health Access Program project was to build effective relationships among employers and consumer advocacy organizations, both of whom represent the actual customers of healthcare, and develop common approaches to improve the accessibility and value of healthcare and promote healthier communities throughout Georgia.** The project aimed to educate consumer advocates about the important concerns and expertise of local employers, and it also explored the consumer and public health components of important community health improvement projects happening at the local level in Georgia.

The activities of this project included the creation of the Intersectoral Community Health Improvement Collaborative (ICHIC) which was comprised of project partners from the two major business groups in Georgia, Savannah Business Group and EmployersLikeMe, consumer advocate representatives from Georgia Watch, Georgians for a Healthy Future, and Voices for Georgia's Children, and representatives from the Department of Public Health's Chronic Disease Prevention section. This collaborative was formed to share knowledge and build relationships by planning and executing activities that brought together employers, public health, providers and advocates for joint learning and conversation. The ICHIC group produced 5 educational workshops in 2016. Below is a brief description of those workshops with links to relevant presentations and materials.

### Workshops:

- We held a January project launch event with participation from ICHIC project partners and five Georgia employers.
- We organized a May webinar titled "Healthcare Quality Improvement Initiatives in Georgia." The archived webinar can be accessed and viewed [online](#). Participating presenters included representatives from the Georgia Department of Public Health Chronic Disease Prevention Section, Georgia Department of Community Health Division of Medical Assistance Plans, and Alliant Quality (GMCF), the QIN-QIO for Georgia and North Carolina.
- "[Employers and Advocates Working Together to Improve Community Health](#)" was an event in Savannah, GA in June 2016 that consisted of three panel discussions with local Savannah groups, public health, statewide advocacy organizations and employers. We had more than 90 registrants in attendance, including approximately 25 employers.
- Georgia Watch hosted a November webinar titled "[Consumer Protections for Surprise Medical Bills and Network Adequacy](#)" that highlighted some recent policy work of consumer advocates to improve consumer experience and transparency in healthcare.
- We held a December wrap-up meeting of ICHIC partners to identify areas of common interest and explore future work together.

## **Rural Community Health Improvement Projects**

As part of this project, Georgia Watch also visited several rural communities to hear the concerns and learn about the innovative multi-sector health improvement activities of employers, providers, hospitals, public health professionals, and community-based organizations. As part of this project, Georgia Watch visited and learned about:

- [Coffee Area Better Health Lower Cost Collaborative](#)
- Tanner Health System – [Get Healthy, Live Well](#)
- [Voices of Progress Terrell County](#)

A comprehensive report on these activities will be forthcoming in January 2016. So, please stay tuned!

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