



FDRHPO

Fort Drum Regional
Health Planning
Organization



NORTHCOUNTRY
— INITIATIVE —

FDRHPO and NCI would like to extend our deep gratitude and appreciation to all who helped make 2025 an incredibly successful year. The following achievements do not just belong to FDRHPO and NCI; they belong to all of us ... our partners, providers, and community members. And, most importantly, they benefit the people who call the North Country region home. There are numerous reasons to celebrate the impact that we — together — are making in our community, building a patient-focused system for health in our region.

Thank you for your efforts to make these achievements and our shared success possible.

- FDRHPO EMS Program Agency hosted multiple events, including EMS Education Day, Fort Drum EMS Day, and co-hosted the 2025 Spring Fling Conference. Over 170 providers attended these events. Educational/training opportunities on the Learning Management System (LMS) reached over 5,300 courses taken by providers, who earned CME credits to continue their certifications.

- FDRHPO EMS Program Agency has expanded Opioid Overdose Prevention by providing Narcan to EMS Providers in Plattsburgh in Clinton County, Moriah and Newcomb in Essex County, and Cambridge Valley in Washington County. Providers in Clinton and Washington County also have access to MATTERS KITS.

- The NYS Division of EMS held the annual Vital Signs Conference for EMS providers across the state. New this year was an EMS Research Forum and “poster walk.” Attendees had the opportunity to view

and discuss various research projects from across the state, including FDRHPO EMS Clinical Coordinator Amanda Slate, who presented her year-long course study on quality improvement through the National Association of EMS Physicians; her quality improvement project focused on the acquisition of vital signs in patients who refuse transport. She worked with 2 agencies in the North Country region (Carthage Area Rescue Squad and Lewis County Search and Rescue) to educate providers on the importance of obtaining vital signs during a patient refusal. Together, they made an 18% improvement in the complete acquisition of all vital signs.



- Two new clients joined FDRHPO IT Managed Service Programs for healthcare providers, including cybersecurity, help desk support, network management, HIPAA compliance, and CIO-level consulting, aiming to provide experienced, affordable IT help without hiring in-house staff, focusing on remote monitoring, security, and specialized health IT solutions for small practices and organizations.

- FDRHPO now has staff with the Fire and Security Alarm license that expands our service offerings to include Door Access and Security Camera installation. This was due to the increased demand for these types of services.



**North
Country**
DIGITAL
INCLUSION
COALITION

- Adirondack Health Institute and FDRHPO expanded their telehealth efforts by establishing the North Country Digital Inclusion Coalition. This Coalition brings together representatives from across the North Country region, including healthcare providers, telehealth specialists, community

leaders, telecommunications experts, broadband advocates, local universities, library systems, and other key stakeholders in digital equity. The Coalition's mission is to address the challenges and barriers that both healthcare providers and residents in rural communities face when accessing telehealth services. It also aims to identify effective strategies for delivering and utilizing telehealth, while pinpointing areas for improvement to ensure that these services remain sustainable, accessible, and affordable across the region.

- NCI and FDRHPO collaborated with NRCIL to place a total of 4.5 full-time equivalent Community Health Workers (CHWs) in 8 primary care sites in Jefferson & St. Lawrence counties. CHWs engage with high-needs individuals to connect them to clinical and social care. So far, CHWs have engaged with 754 unique patients, completed 343 social needs screenings, made 298 referrals to social care organizations, worked on addressing 202 clinical needs, and 10 patients received direct assistance towards food and housing needs. One participant shared that working with their CHW made them “feel like I have hope again.”



- Primary care and behavioral health partners completed 1,368 transitional care management services for Medicaid beneficiaries who had a hospital or ED discharge, and 1,002 chronic care management services for those with multiple chronic conditions. Because these services are not covered by Medicaid, NCI and FDRHPO reimbursed clinical partners for a total of \$169,560. Analysis indicates provision of transitional care management led to a 24% reduction in patients' 90-day post-discharge costs, and 90-day readmission rates of only 4% (compared to 11% for patients who did not engage in the service).

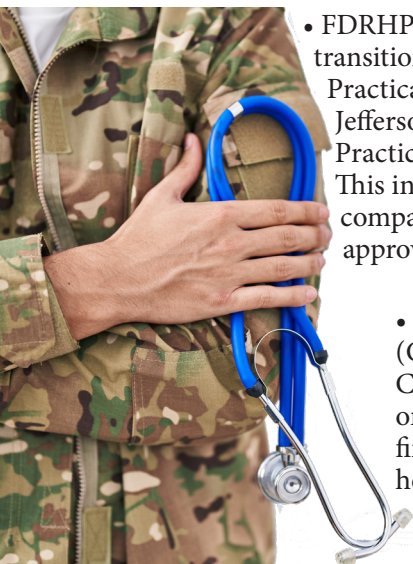
- The IPA entered a value-based contract, the first of its kind in our region, in which behavioral health providers work to improve care and outcomes for 3,200+ people with behavioral health needs through proactive care management.



- The Healthcare Workforce initiative saw growth across its healthcare career exploration programs, with Winter MASH Camp offering 6 sessions at 5 locations and 58 total student spots, and Summer MASH Camp reaching a record 139 applications—up from 94 in 2024, 63 in 2023, and 55 in 2022—while also expanding to a new site at Claxton-Hepburn for a total of 8 sessions and 80 spots. The Scrubs Clubs also saw growth with 7 clubs across 4 districts engaging 119 students for the 2025–26 school year.



- FDRHPO identified barriers faced by Army Medics (68W) transitioning from military service to civilian Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) careers. In collaboration with Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, the team developed an accelerated Practical Nursing Program specifically tailored for Army Medics. This innovative program can now be completed in just five months, a significant reduction in time compared to traditional programs. After review by multiple state agencies, the program has been officially approved—the first of its kind in New York State. The inaugural class is set to begin in February 2026.



- FDRHPO partnered with Caring Gene on the implementation of their Career Pathways Training (CPT) program, which aims to strengthen the healthcare workforce in New York State. Caring Gene's CPT program serves multiple counties across New York State, with FDRHPO specifically focused on supporting residents in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties by providing career guidance, financial support, and additional training resources to those looking to begin or advance a career in healthcare. Throughout the year, FDRHPO assisted 138 individuals across the region who are currently receiving funding for their educational programs.

- Partnered with the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) to bring NYSOMH's Therapeutic Relationships and Universal Safety Training (TRUST) train the trainer to the tri-county region. New York State OMH TRUST master trainers joined FDRHPO, Citizen Advocates, Victims Assistance Center, Thrive Recovery and Wellness, ACR Health, River Hospital, Northstar Health Alliance, Samaritan Medical Center, and Clinton County Community Services for a two week train the trainer, bringing 20 local TRUST trainers to the region.

- Worked in partnership with Jefferson and Lewis Counties, along with local emergency personnel and law enforcement, and the Children's Home of Jefferson County, to develop a data-informed, collaborative Bi-County Implementation and Outreach Plan for the Behavioral Health Mobile Crisis System. To promote the new services, FDRHPO developed the "You Are Not Alone" campaign to encourage the use of the local hotline numbers. In addition, each county is working with its County Emergency Dispatch to identify opportunities to integrate the Mobile Crisis Team into 911 mental health responses.

- Led the formation and continue to facilitate multi-disciplinary care team meetings among community partners and the two regional hospitals with inpatient mental health units, Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center and Samaritan Medical Center. These teams include professionals from hospitals, community-based organizations, county organizations, and behavioral health providers. Each team meets regularly to collaborate around planning for safe transitions of clients back into the community, inclusive of linking patients to mental health services, social care support, and peer support.



• The year 2025 marked the start of a brand-new NYS health improvement planning cycle, built around a completely redesigned NYS Prevention Agenda. Local health departments and hospitals in each county were required to work together as county partners to examine community health needs; conduct research through surveys, focus groups, and secondary data analysis, identify health priorities, and develop a three-year Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and Community Services Plan (CSP) that align with NYSDOH priorities and requirements. Unlike previous cycles, this process introduced new health categories, additional requirements, and a fully updated list of interventions designed to more directly address social determinants of health. FDRHPO led this work for all three counties by conducting the research, producing each county's health assessment, and facilitating the development of the aligned workplans and interventions that partners will carry out over the next three years.



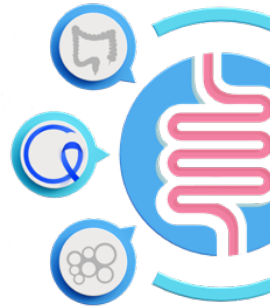
Colorectal cancer affects both men and women, **and is the third leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.**



MARCH IS NATIONAL
COLORECTAL CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

Screening
BEGINS AT 45 and SAVES LIVES!

Talk to your healthcare provider today about which screening test is right for you.



• Promoted preventive screenings, including colorectal cancer and breast cancer screenings, through messaging campaigns and targeted outreach from primary care providers. The 2025 Community Health Survey found that preventive screenings are now at the highest rates observed to date, with 85% of adults (ages 45-75) reporting having had a colorectal cancer screening – up 7% from last year - and 80% of women (ages 40-75) having received a mammogram within the recommended timelines.

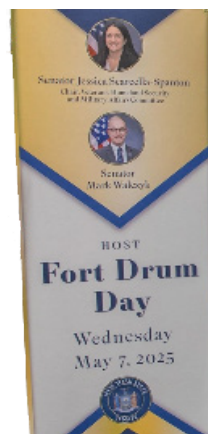
• Through a 1-year grant from Fidelis Care, FDRHPO partnered with Pediatric Wellness of Northern New York to pilot administering fluoride varnish treatment to kids in primary care settings, tracking kids' dental engagement, educating caregivers about available dental providers and healthy daily oral care habits, and providing kids with dental hygiene kits. Best practices were shared with 7 organizations during a "lunch and learn" event, and with 5 additional organizations after the event. More than 2,300 dental hygiene kits, 2,300 fluoride varnish kits, and 5,100 educational brochures with trial flossers were distributed to primary care practices and schools.



• Through its "Casual For A Cause" initiative, FDRHPO staff collected monetary donations for the Compassionate Care Foundation and Jefferson County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Employees at FDRHPO also selected 19 children from the Tunes 92.5 Angel Tree during the holidays to fulfill their Christmas wishes.

• FDRHPO board and team welcomed COL Elizabeth Duque to the community as the new Commander for Guthrie Army Health Clinic.

• FDRHPO participated in Fort Drum Albany Day at the Capitol, meeting with State and 10th Mountain Division leaders to celebrate the division's legacy and partnership with the state, showcase the division's operations, highlight the importance of Fort Drum in national defense and the local economy, and engage with state legislators.



Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization would like to thank all of our dedicated partners and providers for helping to make these successes possible through 2025. Without you, we wouldn't be able to have the reach and impact we work toward providing to the patients and residents of Northern New York. ~FDRHPO Staff