Kevin Jobin-Davis, M.A., Ph.D., is the executive director of the Healthy Capital District Initiative, a not-for-profit collaboration of public health institutions in the Capital Region. HCDI supports regional public health planning resulting in initiatives which improve access to care. Kevin is the lead data analyst for the R® Initiative, a project examining sub-optimal emergency department use in the Capital District. Before joining HCDI, Kevin developed municipal services as a grant writer and program manager for the Village of Voorheesville, Town of New Scotland and City of Albany. He completed his graduate training in sociology at the University at Albany. Kevin serves on the boards of the New York State Public Health Association, the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities and the Jim Nichols Foundation.

Courtney Burke, HCDI’s director of health planning, is the project director for the R® Initiative, which focuses on reducing sub-optimal emergency department use in the Capital District. She is responsible for overall project oversight, with a particular focus on an analysis in gaps in patient care. Burke has 15 years of progressively responsible public policy and health system research experience, serving as director of the Health Policy Research Center at the Rockefeller Institute of Government since 2007 and as the senior research scientist in the Health and Medicaid Studies program at the Institute from 2001-2007. She previously worked as the senior policy analyst at the New York State Office of Advocate for Persons with Disabilities and on Medicaid policy at the New York State Department of Health. She has an M.S. in health policy and management from the School of Public Health at SUNY at Albany, and a B.A. in political science and journalism from the University of Connecticut.

Erin Knoerl is a research assistant for the R® Initiative, where she has been examining patients’ health decision-making behaviors. She has developed a consumer survey for the Web, and also has helped develop a questionnaire for area hospitals to administer to patients in an effort to better determine the factors that affect emergency department utilization in the Capital Region. In addition, Erin is also gathering patient education materials from around the Capital Region, along with strategies currently in use around the country. She will make recommendations for new consumer education materials based on her findings. Erin received a master’s in public health in May 2010 from the State University of New York at Albany’s School of Public Health.

Barbara Stubblebine is the communications specialist for HCDI’s R® Initiative. In this role, she maintains communications for R® stakeholders, including setting up the project’s communication tools; creating and updating Web site and social media content, e-newsletter, and presentations; creating and editing project documents; and conducting Web research. In addition, Barbara has served as project officer for the Health Policy Research Center (HPRC) at the Rockefeller Institute of Government since 2007, where she provides research, grant writing, and fundraising assistance; maintains the program’s Web content; and serves as part of the Institute’s communications team. She is also a freelance copyeditor and proofreader. Barbara received a B.A. in English from the State University of New York at Albany, and has completed graduate coursework in technical communication and English at RPI and SUNY Albany.
Josh Back is a research assistant for the R⁵ Initiative, and has been researching patient-decision making patterns that may lead to sub-optimal emergency department use. This examination will outline how patients who enter the emergency department flow through the health system, including how they interact with staff, procedures surrounding patient hand-offs, and how care is managed once the patient is discharged or transferred outside the emergency room. Josh currently is a research assistant at the Ellis Hospital Family Health Center and a unit support technician at Ellis Hospital, where he has assisted with a research project evaluating the model of care in a resident-run health clinic for the homeless and uninsured. He has a B.A. in peace and conflict studies from Colgate University.

Healthy Capital District Initiative (HCDI) | www.hcdiny.org

The Healthy Capital District Initiative is a not-for-profit collaboration of public health institutions in the Capital Region. HCDI supports regional public health planning resulting in initiatives which improve access to care, including helping residents apply for public health insurance; providing preventive oral health services to children at schools in low income neighborhoods; and operating the Poverello Center free health clinic for adults.

R⁵ Initiative | www.hcdiny.org/r5.htm

Through a grant from the New York State Department of Health, the R⁵ Initiative brings together a wide range of physicians, community-based service providers, payers, businesses, and hospitals from the Capital District to identify interventions that will minimize inappropriate use of emergency services. To achieve this goal, the initiative is determining root causes of sub-optimal emergency department utilization, where gaps exist, potential interventions, and best methods for implementing interventions. Outcomes will include: analyses of patient utilization patterns in the Capital District; guidelines suggesting methods for improving patient flow through the health system; more informed consumers, providers, and insurers regarding optimal care utilization; institutional policies and procedures that coincide with care utilization guidelines; a higher proportion of the population with an identified medical home; changes in regional care utilization patterns that indicate that individuals are choosing emergency care settings for emergent care needs; and a CON process that better accounts for community public health needs.