



NEWS RELEASE

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Colorado Efforts to Accelerate Medical Home Transformation in Safety Net Clinics

DENVER— The Colorado Community Health Network will accelerate efforts to support Medical Home Transformation in Colorado Safety Net Clinics through a partnership with The Colorado Health Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, Qualis Health, and the MacColl Institute for Healthcare Innovation. Colorado is one of five states selected for the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative, a four-year initiative to work with existing safety net clinics and community stakeholders to reach high levels of quality, efficiency, and patient experience.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is one of five Regional Coordinating Centers for this national demonstration project. Over the next four years, CCHN will provide technical assistance on practice redesign topics such as enhanced access, patient centeredness and care coordination. The initiative calls for partnerships between safety net providers and community stakeholders to work towards a new model of primary care delivery that has shown promise as a way to provide high-quality, cost effective health care to low-income and minority patients while simultaneously reducing racial and ethnic health disparities.

“The Medical Home Initiative will help support quality improvement innovations to gain the efficiencies and focus to improve the already high quality health care given at Community Health Centers,” said Jessica Sanchez, Clinical Quality Division Director for the Colorado Community Health Network. “The initiative will help practice systems improve the quality of care for vulnerable patients by providing them with a regular provider as a source of care, decrease cost by improving efficiencies, and reduce disparities in terms of the promoting higher rates of preventive care through routine reminders.”

Eight foundations are in partnership to support the initiative. In addition to those listed above, the project is supported by Jewish Healthcare Foundation in Pittsburgh, Pa., Northwest Health Foundation in Portland, Ore., Partners HealthCare in Boston, Mass., The Boston Foundation in Mass., Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

The initiative is led by Qualis Health, a Seattle-based quality improvement organization, which will be working with the MacColl Institute to support efforts at Community Health Centers to improve coordination of information between primary care and specialty care or community providers, use information technology to identify patients with unmet needs and improve care for those with chronic conditions, and systematically obtain feedback from patients for quality improvement.

To best leverage funds, funders sought participants that had already demonstrated a commitment to the patient-centered medical home model and had taken initial steps to improve the care they provide.

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To interview Ms. Sanchez, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

Questions may also be directed to Mary Mahon at The Commonwealth Fund, (212) 606-3853 or mm@cmwf.org; or Joyce Shaw at Qualis Health, (206) 361-5419.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members - one in 10 people in Colorado - from 54 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit www.cchn.org.

Additional information about the Safety Net Medical Home Initiative can be found at:

The Colorado Health Foundation: www.coloradohealth.org

The Commonwealth Fund: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>

Qualis Health: <http://www.qhmedicalhome.org/safety-net/index.cfm>

MacColl Institute for Healthcare Innovation: <http://www.centerforhealthstudies.org/maccoll/maccoll.html>

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