



**Camden Coalition**  
of Healthcare Providers

## **As Congress votes on the AHCA, on the anniversary of the ACA, community leaders highlight the promise of local models**

Good Care Collaborative convenes leaders of New Jersey's community-based Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations to discuss early impact and future implications of the work.

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TRENTON, NJ, March 23, 2017 - The [Good Care Collaborative](#) brought providers, payers and policy leaders from across the state together at Thomas Edison State University for a [forum](#) discussing the impact of community-based Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) in providing better, more integrated care to vulnerable populations in New Jersey's three largest cities. Leaders from New Jersey's three certified Medicaid ACOs— [Trenton Health Team ACO](#), [Healthy Greater Newark ACO](#), and the [Camden Coalition ACO](#)—shared lessons learned and discussed how their work can continue to reshape New Jersey's health care landscape.

"With limited resources and increasing uncertainty at the federal level regarding the future of Medicaid, New Jersey needs innovative, evidence based, regional approaches to improving quality, outcomes and efficiencies," said Natassia Rozario, Senior Director of External Affairs from the Camden Coalition.

Victor Murray, Director of Population Health Initiatives at the Camden Coalition, discussed some of their preliminary findings, saying, "Our work is impacting patients and providers on the ground every day and we are beginning to see a positive savings trend for our ACO, despite significant increases in pharmacy, outpatient and pediatric care costs across the state. In addition, our community is excited about our behavioral health strategies, including developing more capacity and access to local suboxone licensed providers."

"Medicaid touches one out of every five lives in our state" said Linda Schwimmer, President and CEO of New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, which recently published a report entitled Medicaid 2.0, which calls for an evolution of the ACO model to better reflect the work these groups are already doing. "The [Medicaid] program accounts for approximately 20 percent of New Jersey's state budget. Modernizing Medicaid and making the program more efficient and effective will be essential to future generations and to the fiscal stability of our state for years and decades to come."

The event also highlighted a "Social ACO" in Massachusetts, developed by the Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA). Lori Tishler, Vice President of Medical Affairs, discussed a fully integrated financing structure of a holistic, comprehensive program that has the capacity and resources to address the social needs of their patients.

"New Jersey's Medicaid ACOs have brought competing stakeholders together, around a shared vision that was spurred by the State's Demonstration Project," said Gregory Paulson, Executive Director of Trenton Health Team. "We have developed the partnerships and infrastructure to advance this work in significant ways. But there's a lot more work to be done. Continued structural and financial resources are needed to advance our regional collaboration and coordination and to complete the Demonstration Project with integrity."

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## **About New Jersey's Medicaid ACO Demonstration Project**

Legislation establishing New Jersey's three-year Medicaid ACO Demonstration Project was [passed in 2011](#), and in 2015 Trenton Health Team, Healthy Greater Newark, and the Camden Coalition were selected as the state's three Medicaid ACOs. Rutgers Center for State Health Policy is responsible for reviewing and evaluating this Demonstration Project, producing reports on both the lessons from the implementation process and Year 1 review.

[Community-based Medicaid ACOs](#) bring their city's health care providers and health care systems together to provide coordinated, patient centered care for an entire Medicaid population, with the goal of improving health and reducing costs. [Reports](#) from the Center for Health Care Strategies show that in **Colorado**, ACO-like structures have saved the state \$77 million in Medicaid spending, and have demonstrated lower rates of emergency room visits, high cost imaging, and hospital readmissions.

## **About the Good Care Collaborative**

The Good Care Collaborative (GCC) is a coalition of patients, providers, payers and policy leaders from across New Jersey's health care spectrum committed to sensible Medicaid reform informed by models of good care in our state. The GCC is convened by the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. By working together across stakeholder groups, the GCC believes that New Jersey's Medicaid system can become the national model for delivering better care at lower costs to everyone, every day.

The GCC's work is informed by a vision for a system grounded in good care. The GCC defines good care to be high quality, patient-centered, integrated, and efficient. A system delivering good care ensures that all patients are able to enjoy their highest attainable standard of health and wellbeing.

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