



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 9, 2018

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**CAMDEN COALITION OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO  
PRIORITIZE COMPLEX CARE IN 2018 BUDGET**

*Camden Coalition senior policy advisers ask New Jersey legislative committees to renew the Garden State's investments in data sharing and healthcare innovation*

Senior policy advisers from the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers offered testimony today in Trenton and last week in Glassboro urging the Assembly and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committees to renew the state's commitment to complex care. Continued investment is crucial to maintaining the innovation and data sharing that enable collaborative efforts to address complex health and social needs among the state's most vulnerable and costly to treat populations.

"The Camden Coalition, in partnership with many community organizations, is uniquely positioned to address pressing health concerns in New Jersey, including opioid dependence, maternal health, and homelessness," said Senior Program Manager for Policy Research, Writing, and Advocacy Alex Staropoli. "Because our programs are rooted in whole-person care, they consider both the health and social needs of our patients that are often overlooked in traditional healthcare settings."

The Camden Coalition's Housing First program has been associated with a more than 60 percent drop in emergency room and inpatient hospital use. The Camden Delivers program for women of childbearing age is addressing the shockingly disproportionate maternal mortality rate in New Jersey. Programs like these rely on collaboration with strong community partners and a sophisticated health information exchange (HIE) and stakeholder collaboration to design and maintain interventions that improve quality and access to healthcare. Individuals struggling with opioid use disorder represent a significant portion of the patients and participants in all of the Camden Coalition's programs.

Ms. Staropoli and Senior Program Manager for Policy and Advocacy Jon Tew highlighted the important role state funding has played in making New Jersey a national leader in healthcare innovation.



“Along with Medicaid accountable care organizations in Trenton and Newark, we’re linking data and convening stakeholders to reduce costly, unnecessary duplication and improve care coordination among payers and providers,” Mr. Tew told Assembly members today. “Breaking down silos across sectors and among competitors creates opportunities for innovative collaboration that improves delivery of care to vulnerable New Jerseyans and ultimately saves money. The Accountable Care Organization Demonstration Project is already beginning to see progress in healthcare quality and access.”

In written testimony, the Camden Coalition shared the stories of patients [Charlie Vazquez](#) and [Christine Keck](#), who have improved their health and well-being through Camden Coalition interventions. The state-supported Camden Coalition HIE and accountable care organization (ACO) infrastructure are critical to the success of the Camden Coalition interventions.

New Jersey’s three ACOs – the Camden Coalition, Trenton Health Team, and Healthy Greater Newark – are part of a three-year demonstration project that began in 2015. Participating providers in the ACOs are collectively responsible for the care of their enrolled populations. By collaborating, sharing information, and focusing on key quality standards, the [Camden Coalition ACO](#) delivers coordinated, efficient, and effective care to 37,000 residents of Camden, including many of the city’s most vulnerable citizens. All three ACOs are using their health information exchanges to share real-time data among stakeholders across sectors, and to pilot and operationalize innovative models to address the needs of their communities.

[Housing First](#) is a widely-used, evidence-based housing model that ends homelessness for individuals facing long-term housing challenges. With the help of community partners, the Camden Coalition provides participants with safe, dignified housing and extensive wrap-around support services so they can improve their health and manage chronic conditions. Preliminary findings show a more than 60 percent reduction in inpatient and emergency room use among enrolled participants.

[Camden Delivers](#) is the Camden Coalition’s targeted chronic disease management program for women of childbearing age in Camden. New Jersey is among the worst performing states in the country for maternal mortality. Maternal outcomes in Camden are even worse: for every 100,000 women, over 30 die in childbirth. Camden Delivers is designed to serve women of reproductive age facing complex health and social needs, including substance use, housing instability, poor mental health, domestic violence, and more. To date, the program has served 135 women. Camden Delivers addiction medicine pilot program, working with women diagnosed with substance use disorders, has already served 18 women.

“We applaud the state’s support for local, community based innovation and are encouraged by the Legislature’s efforts to improve New Jersey’s healthcare system,” Ms. Staropoli continued. “Now is the time to double down on data-driven solutions here in New Jersey. We look forward



to working with the Legislature and Administration to secure a budget that invests in the health of New Jersey's most vulnerable residents.”

**About the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers**

*The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers is a citywide coalition of over 25 hospitals, primary care providers, and community organizations working together to deliver better health care to vulnerable citizens in Camden, NJ. Founded by Dr. Jeffrey Brenner in 2002, the Coalition knits together a fragmented health care system for patients with complex needs and repeated, ineffective and expensive hospitalizations, using smart data and holistic, multi-disciplinary team care. We believe if we can deliver better care at lower cost here in Camden, it can be done for everyone, everywhere in America.*

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