



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2018

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STATE BUDGET EXTENDS MEDICAID ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The three certified Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) – Trenton Health Team, Healthy Greater Newark, and Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers – praise state leaders for extending the three-year demonstration project through FY 2019

Today, the three New Jersey certified Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) – Trenton Health Team, Healthy Greater Newark and Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers – applauded state leaders for extending the demonstration project in the FY 2019 New Jersey State Budget. Had the ACO Demonstration Project been left out of the budget, or in the event of a government shutdown, the organizations would have lost access to crucial data that allow them to triage patients, provide better care coordination, and develop innovative solutions that further the mission of improving healthcare quality and access to services.

“The ACO has been transformational for Trenton patients,” said **Trenton Health Team Executive Director Gregory Paulson**, “especially those with multiple chronic conditions and unmet social service needs. I am thrilled to see the state invest in this for an additional year. Our care managers use the Health Information Exchange data to identify high-need patients and work with them over time, often in their homes, to address challenges from food access to housing to addiction treatment needs. This program is not only the right thing to do for the citizens of New Jersey, it is a cost-effective way to manage healthcare needs and improve the health and wellbeing of our population.”

“The Medicaid ACO Demonstration Project has enabled us to bring people and resources together to create population health strategies for Newark,” said **Healthy Greater Newark ACO Executive Director Keri Logosso-Misurell**. “State support has enabled us to ground our strategies in data and foster collaboration between clinical and non-clinical partners. A focus of our ACO work has been to build and maintain a regional Health Information Exchange that meets our clinical health partners’ population health analytics and care coordination needs. The ACO Demonstration Project has also brought clinical providers and behavioral health and substance use disorder specialists together to coordinate care for a subset of patients with complex health and social needs in a way that is improving care at the practice level and connecting care across partners and with community supports to better serve the needs of the patient. We commend state leadership for their commitment to health and wellbeing and are grateful for the opportunity to serve Newark.”



“Through the Medicaid ACO Demonstration Project, we’re linking data and convening stakeholders to reduce costly, unnecessary duplication and improve care coordination among payers and providers,” said **Camden Coalition CEO Kathleen Noonan**. “The ACO Demonstration Project is already beginning to see progress in healthcare quality and access, and we applaud New Jersey’s leaders for recognizing and continuing the excellent program.”

In 2015, New Jersey began a three-year Medicaid ACO Demonstration Project to provide better healthcare for the state’s most vulnerable residents. The three state-certified ACOs are working in coalition with area hospitals, primary care and specialty providers, behavioral health providers, community organizations, cross-sector partners, and city residents to provide better healthcare at lower cost through coordinated, efficient care for local residents enrolled in Medicaid. The work of the ACOs would not be possible without their ability to link and analyze data across providers and payers. Each state-certified ACO manages a Health Information Exchange (HIE) that offers participating health providers secure, real-time access to shared medical information. These data foster improved care coordination among payers and providers, and reduce unnecessary, costly duplication.

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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