



The Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network

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HEALTHY GROWTH FOR GBUAHN – 5,000TH MEMBER JOINS

(BUFFALO, NY, September 29, 2015) – The Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUAHN) reached a milestone on Friday, September 25, 2015 when the organization enrolled its 5,000th member. GBUAHN has doubled in size over the last year, creating jobs and helping individuals navigate the often-complex Medicaid system.

Medicaid recipients who join GBUAHN receive healthcare coordination (Health Home) services that focus on treating the whole person. To become a member, one must be a Medicaid recipient and have at least one chronic health condition, or one that may lead to a chronic health condition. Each member is assigned a patient health navigator who assists the client in obtaining access to healthcare services, as well as needed community resources including: food pantries, housing, and social services programs such as Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

GBUAHN began with three employees in February 2013 and now employs more than 130 individuals, an increase of almost 98%. The organization's goal is to reach 500 employees by this time next year.

“This increase is monumental in such a short span of time,” said Raul Vazquez, M.D., GBUAHN CEO.

“However, this is just the beginning for us. We are passionate about helping our members, and GBUAHN will make sure that we have the resources to continue to provide phenomenal services for Medicaid recipients.”

(MORE)

Significant savings for taxpayers is another key result of this program. With their assigned GBUAHN patient health navigators, clients receive on-going support for preventive care with a primary physician and maintenance care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure. As a result, expensive emergency room visits decrease and Medicaid costs are reduced.

Founded in 2013, the Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUAHN) is a Health Home established under the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Health Homes coordinate care for people with Medicaid who have chronic health conditions or who are at risk for developing chronic health conditions. This free service integrates all primary care, acute, behavioral health and long-term services and supports to treat the whole person. Each person who joins gets a patient health navigator (PHN). A PHN works closely with the patient to get him/her the services he/she needs in the community. For more information on GBUAHN, visit www.gbuahn.org

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