



The Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **GBUAHN is 7,500 Members Strong!**

(BUFFALO, N.Y., September 20, 2017) – The Greater Buffalo United Accountable Healthcare Network (GBUAHN) is celebrating a milestone of reaching membership of 7,500. The milestone comes on the eve of GBUAHN’s Grand Opening Ceremony, which celebrates the new, multi-million dollar medical facility at 564 Niagara Street on Buffalo’s Lower West Side. GBUAHN’s facility is expected to pump \$11 million into the local economy. GBUAHN has tripled in size over the past two years, creating jobs, revitalizing the city’s economy and helping individuals navigate the often-complex Medicaid system.

Medicaid recipients who join GBUAHN receive free health care coordination (Health Home) services that focus on treating the whole person. To qualify for services, one must be a Medicaid recipient and suffer from 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 accessing health care services, as well as needed community resources including: housing, food pantries, and social services programs such as Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

GBUAHN began in February 2013 with three employees and now employs more than 150 individuals. The organization’s goal is to reach 500 employees by the end of this year.

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“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.”

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.

GBUAHN’s mission is to remove the barriers created by social determinants in underserved communities. GBUAHN’s vision is to become the health home of choice for our chose marketplace.

For more information on GBUAHN, visit [www.gbuahn.org](http://www.gbuahn.org)

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