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Community Healthcare Network Selected to Lead “Health Home” Medicaid Program in Brooklyn, Co-Lead in Bronx

New Program Will Achieve Better Care for Chronically Ill Patients and Produce Significant Cost Savings

(New York, NY) -- Community Healthcare Network (CHN) has been selected to serve as a lead “Health Home” in Brooklyn and as co-lead in the Bronx by the NYS Department of Health. In addition to providing better-coordinated and comprehensive care for approximately 975,000 chronically ill Medicaid patients, the soon-to-be-launched NYS Health Home program is projected to achieve Medicaid savings of \$33.2 million in fiscal year 2011-12.

Beginning January 1, 2012, CHN will coordinate with other health care providers and community-based organizations to oversee and ensure access to a wide range of health and mental health services, comprehensive care management, transitional care, patient and family support, referral to community and social support services, and use of health information technology to link services.

“We are thrilled to have been selected and believe that this model of care will produce improved health outcomes. It’s a testament to the high quality of patient care we provide to our 70,000 patients each year, regardless of their ability to pay, and to our roots in the communities we serve” said Catherine Abate, President and CEO of Community Healthcare Network. CHN, a nonprofit organization, runs 11 Federally Qualified Health Centers with level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home status, and Joint Commission Accreditation. CHN was also recently recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance for their diabetes care and treatment programs.

The NYS Health Home program was established as a result of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). According to the New York State Department of Health, “Health home services support the provision of coordinated, comprehensive medical and behavioral health care to patients with chronic conditions through care coordination and integration that assures access to appropriate services, improves health outcomes, reduces preventable hospitalizations and emergency room

visits, promotes use of health information technology (HIT), and avoids unnecessary care.”

To be eligible for Health Home enrollment, Medicaid eligible individuals must have: (1) two chronic conditions; (2) one chronic condition and are at risk for a second chronic condition; or (3) one serious persistent mental health condition to qualify for health home services.

The concept for Health Homes was based on the COBRA Case Management program managed by the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute. CHN was one of the first agencies in New York City to implement COBRA services and today runs one of the largest COBRA programs in the state (<http://www.chnnyc.org/services/hiv-testing-and-care/hiv-aids-community-follow-up-program/>).

-30-

About CHN:

Community Healthcare Network (CHN) is a not-for-profit organization providing access to affordable, culturally-competent and comprehensive community-based primary care, mental health and social services for diverse populations in underserved communities throughout New York City. CHN serves more than 70,000 individuals a year who would otherwise have little or no access to critical health care. CHN is composed of ten health centers and one mobile health unit. To learn more about CHN visit our website at www.chnnyc.org.