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For Immediate Release

November 18, 2008

NACHC Among the Leaders in Movement for Improved Health Care Quality



Washington, D.C. _ As a leading member of an unusually diverse coalition of 28 major national organizations representing those who receive, pay for, deliver and evaluate healthcare, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has unveiled the most comprehensive agenda of its kind to transform health care during a time of severe economic strain by cutting waste and better investing resources to fundamentally improve care.

The Partnership's improvement agenda is well underway, identifying six "National Priorities" that target reform in ways that will eliminate harm, eradicate disparities, reduce disease burden, and remove waste to provide world-class, patient-centered, affordable healthcare. The "National Priorities" are:

- Patient and Family Engagement, to provide patient-centered, effective care;
- Population Health, to bring greater focus on wellness and prevention;
- Safety, to improve reliability and eliminate errors wherever and whenever possible;
- Care Coordination, to provide patient-centered, high-value care;
- Palliative and End-of-Life Care, to guarantee appropriate and compassionate care for patients with advanced illnesses; and
- Overuse, to remove waste and achieve effective, affordable care.

The nation's economic crisis makes addressing health care even more urgent. With health care spending on track to reach 50 percent of America's GDP by 2050 and states in severe budgetary straits, cutting waste to achieve savings and better care is an imperative. "There is broad consensus among Americans that health care needs real change. We must capitalize on this opportunity to improve safety and effectiveness and eliminate waste," said Partnership co-chair and National Committee for Quality Assurance president Margaret O'Kane. "The Partnership represents unprecedented consensus -- we have brought the right players together at the right time to effect positive, meaningful change."

Moving into 2009, NACHC and the Partnership's other members are enlisting other powerful organizations to help fix health care, arguably the nation's biggest ongoing crisis. The group will spend the next year marshalling specific, measurable actions to deliver better, more affordable care.

"The key is focusing on the right places in our vast and fragmented "system" where we can achieve the greatest dividends for patients and their families. If leveraged strategically, increments of improvement can accrue into transformational change and a much higher-performing healthcare system," said Janet Corrigan, president and CEO of the nonprofit National Quality Forum, which convened the National Priorities Partnership.

To read the report visit this [link](#).

The 28 National Priorities Partners represent key healthcare stakeholders, including:

consumer groups, employers, government, health plans, healthcare alliances, healthcare professionals, scientists, accrediting and certifying bodies, and quality alliances. The Partners are: AARP, AFL-CIO, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, The Alliance for Pediatric Quality, America's Health Insurance Plans, American Board of Medical Specialties, American Nurses Association, AQA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology, Consumers Union, Hospital Quality Alliance, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Institute of Medicine, The Joint Commission, Leapfrog Group, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Business Group on Health, National Committee for Quality Assurance, National Governors Association, National Institutes of Health, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Quality Forum, Pacific Business Group on Health, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Quality Alliance St

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