



UNITY HEALTH CARE

We treat you well

Testimony of

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PRESIDENT AND CEO
UNITY HEALTH CARE

Before the

Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking

On

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Introduction

Good morning Commissioner McPherson and members of the Board. My name is Vincent Keane and I am the President and CEO of Unity Health Care. Unity is a non-profit organization founded in 1985. It is the largest private organization providing primary medical care to homeless, low-income, and uninsured District residents. Our patient population is racially and ethnically diverse and largely minority. Substantial health disparities and poor health outcomes among this population demonstrate the need for accessible and comprehensive primary care services. We use a holistic approach to provide primary medical care and social services to homeless and medically underserved residents of the District of Columbia.

Unity operates a large network of health care centers, homeless sites, and other programs. These sites and services are located throughout the city, in areas with large numbers of people living in poverty to assure maximum accessibility. Our institutional approach focuses on ensuring that our programs are accessible, of high quality, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the needs of our clients.

Testimony

I testify before you today to outline the commitment that CareFirst has made to Unity over the past five years. The following is a summary of the funding provided as well as the purpose for which this funding was used:

2009: CareFirst awarded Unity a grant of \$230,000 for the purchase and design of a fully equipped 34-foot Mobile Medical Outreach Vehicle. This mobile unit contained two built-in

exam rooms, two social services counseling quarters, and a waiting area. These mobile facilities provide access to vital medical and social services to those persons across the District who experience homelessness.

2011-2013: CareFirst provided Unity with a \$375,000 grant to support upgrading its dental suites with digital dental equipment and software and to support vitally important adult immunizations, ensuring Unity patients across our network have access to state of the art services.

2012-2014: CareFirst supported Unity with a \$913,802 grant for our Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Enhancement initiative. This funding supports our efforts to reduce excess emergency room utilization, improve patient outcomes through care coordination for patients that have been lost to care, and expand access and increase utilization of extended and evening hours.

In addition to direct grants for services, CareFirst has supported Unity as a sponsor for all of our fundraising and gala events for the past five years.

Conclusion

This has been Unity's experience over five years which reflects the community engagement of CareFirst in serving the medically underserved of Washington DC. I believe that this commitment will continue into the future, as Unity continues to fully implement the new model of care that is called for under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), a goal that I know the leadership of CareFirst is likewise committed. Thank you for accepting my testimony.