



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attention: Community Editors, Business, Health Care
Writers and Editors

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FEDERAL HEALTH OFFICIALS VISITS UNITY HEALTH CARE'S UPPER CARDOZO HEALTH CENTER TO OBSERVE IT'S ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS (EMR) SYSTEM

Washington, DC – On June 13, 2011 the Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) and Federal Health Community (FHC) visited Unity Health Care's (Unity) Upper Cardozo Health Center. Unity Health Care is a federally qualified community health center serving over 82,000 underserved residents in the District of Columbia.

The tour and visit were designed to allow federal employees the opportunity to see first hand how health information technology (HIT) is helping patients and doctors at community health centers. The visit was organized to coordinate with the 7th Annual Government Health IT Conference. The meeting was attended by over 15 visitors from federal agencies that include, Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), US Air Force, HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care, Indian Health Service, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The session was opened with welcomes by Mr. Thomas M. Leary, Sr. Director, Federal Health Affairs, HIMSS on behalf of HIMSS, Mr. Vincent A. Keane, President and CEO of Unity Health Care on behalf of Unity, and Dr. Yael Harris, HRSA Office of Health IT and Quality on behalf of the FHC. In his remarks, Mr. Keane stated that, *"We would like to thank federal and District agencies for their support in helping us improve our infrastructure so that we can continue to provide health services to the most vulnerable populations in the District."*

Dr. Luis F. Padilla, Medical Director at Upper Cardozo Health Center gave a brief overview about Upper Cardozo Health Center and the patients that it serves. Dr. Angela R. Diop, Director of Information Systems at Unity gave an overview of Unity's HIT platform, past HIT accomplishment and future projects.

Opening remarks were followed by a tour and demonstration of stations throughout Upper Cardozo where HIT is being utilized for patient care. The tour focused on Unity's use of electronic health records (EHR) and how this is leading to continuous improvement in patient safety, quality and continuity of care as well as improved business efficiencies. Since 2008 nearly \$2 million of federal funding was provided to help fund Unity's implementation of EHR in its large network of health centers. Unity uses eClinicalWorks software for its EHR and practice management at its health centers. Later in 2011, Unity plans to begin participating in the District of Columbia Regional Health Organization (DC RHIO). The DC RHIO is a collaborative effort led by the District of Columbia Primary Care Association (DCPCA) and funded by the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH) to improve the quality and efficiency of the health care system.

In addition to highlighting Unity's use of HIT, the tour took place against the back drop of Upper Cardozo's major renovation and construction project. The renovation was made possible by a \$9.5 million award from HRSA through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The renovation will increase the health center's capacity to see patients as well as modernize the facility.

Unity Health Care is Washington, DC's largest nonprofit health and social services organization serving more than 82,000 individuals and families annually in all eight wards of the District of Columbia by providing services for the most vulnerable residents including the uninsured, working poor, homeless, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated; through its network of health centers that includes Community Health Centers, sites serving homeless, and a mobile medical unit. For more information about Unity Health Care, visit our website at www.unityhealthcare.org. or contact our Marketing and Public Relations Department at (202) 715-7887

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