



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

UNITY HEALTH CARE, INC. PARTNERS WITH PATHWAYS TO HOUSING DC AND PROVIDES PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THEIR NEWLY ESTABLISHED *HEALTH WORKS!* PROGRAM

On Wednesday, April 6, 2011, Pathways to Housing DC (Pathways) announced the opening of *Health Works!* a program that will provide integrated mental and primary medical care services to homeless individuals that have been diagnosed with severe psychiatric disorders and/or a history of substance abuse. Pathways received a five (5) year grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to support this effort.

As a key partner, Unity Health Care, Incorporated (Unity) will work jointly with the Pathways' Health Works Program to provide a full range of primary medical care services onsite (at 101 Q Street, Northeast, Suite G, Washington, DC) that will be integrated with substance abuse, mental health, and other supportive services. This approach will ensure that the most vulnerable patients will be able to easily access primary medical care in the same location they will be receiving other key mental health services. Convenient, accessible, and no-barriers to care are key components to addressing the needs of such a vulnerable population that may not trust health care providers.

Through this initiative, Unity will be assigning a culturally sensitive and highly qualified medical provider and medical assistant that will work to address health care issues (and once trust have been formed between the patient and provider) they will transition patients to Unity's Walker-Jones Health Center (located at 40 Patterson Street, Washington, DC) where the same provider will continue to see them on an ongoing basis. This will allow patients to have a long-term medical home, while maintaining continuity of care with the provider they have grown to know and trust.

"We are truly appreciative for the opportunity to partner with Pathways to Housing DC in this new endeavor. Last year, Unity celebrated 25 years of service. Unity began as Health Care for the Homeless Project and our mission to provide quality health care services to the homeless population remains a key component of who we are," said Vincent A. Keane, President and CEO of Unity. *"In the spirit of our founders' legacy, Unity will continue to provide accessible, affordable and a high standard of service delivery to all of those who seek primary health care services, regardless of their ability to pay. ."* added Keane.

Founded in 1985 as “Healthcare for the Homeless Project,” 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 through its network of health centers that includes Community Health Centers, sites serving homeless, and a mobile medical unit. Unity provides services for the most vulnerable residents of the District including the uninsured, working poor, homeless, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated. 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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