

## **Remarks of Vincent A. Keane at the Mayor's Press Conference**

Good morning Mr. Mayor, Mr. Brown:

My name is Vincent A. Keane, I am CEO of Unity Health Care in the District of Columbia. Unity Health Care provides comprehensive primary health care services to 67,000 District low income residents through a network of community based, and homeless health centers. Unity Health Care has been providing health care service to the indigent and medically underserved for over twenty years.

We are pleased and honored, to accept the invitation to work with the District of Columbia's Department of Corrections in implementing this community based model of health care for the inmates of the D.C. Correctional Facilities. We believe it is consistent with our mission, our expertise, and our strong commitment to the most vulnerable residents of the District of Columbia. We are strongly committed to the goals of the Community Based model for Correctional Facilities.

- The provision of high quality care for the inmates within the correctional facilities.
- The linkage of the inmates on discharge to a primary medical home, and
- The ultimate improvement of public health in the District.

We believe that correctional facility inmates are not isolated individuals, but belong to our communities both prior to, and after incarceration. Unity's experience with serving many of these D.C. residents through our homeless and community health centers will be a great asset in meeting the goals of this program.

We are pleased also to share in this partnership with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, knowing that they will provide strong technical assistance through this transition period. We believe that history has come full circle for Unity Health Care, because over twenty years ago Unity then Health Care for the Homeless Project, Inc. received an initial funding grant as part of a network of nineteen programs throughout the United States to establish health care services for homeless individuals. That pilot funding, which began

in three small shelters here in the District has now blossomed into the largest provider of primary health care services to the medically indigent in the District of Columbia. We thank you Robert Wood Johnson for your vision to once again step forward in an effort to address the health care needs of a very marginalized population, jail inmates.

As Unity Health Care has partnered with the District of Columbia in the past through The Alliance and other programs, we stand ready to once again be of service to The District and it's most vulnerable residents.

Thank you.