

PRESS RELEASE

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KEEPING THE FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS: Dr. Betty Duke, HRSA Administrator, joins Unity Health Care and HealthRight in launching the new Health Care for the Community and Homeless Outreach Van”

Washington, DC, March 25, 2005 To commemorate the first National Health Care for the Homeless Week (March 21-26), Unity Health Care reinforced its commitment to provide medical services to the homeless in Washington, D.C., by announcing its acquisition of a new Medical Outreach Van for the Homeless.

The vehicle was introduced to the public today in front of Unity Health Care’s Federal City Shelter Health Center during an event attended by Dr. Betty Duke, Administrator of the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), District officials, Vincent A. Keane, CEO of Unity Health Care, Inc.(UHC), Patrina Fowler, CEO of HealthRight, Inc. (HRI), and other city officials.

“HRI is proud to provide UHC with the services of a new van to improve medical care for the District’s homeless population and increase the immunization rates and health check visits of District children,” said HRI’s Fowler.

HRI acquired the 33-foot-long, Airstream van for use by UHC. The vehicle is fully equipped with a spacious, modern exam room, two private offices for social work, medical interviews or other services, and space for storage of blankets in the winter months. Its versatility will allow Unity to use the vehicle for a variety of health-related events.

“The medical outreach van gives us the opportunity of serving our homeless patients in a more efficient and dignified environment,” said UHC’s Keane.” “It was the medical needs of the homeless in Washington, D.C., that brought together our founders in 1985 to serve the homeless,” he added. “It is only fitting that in this, the 20th anniversary of UHC, as we commemorate the first National Health Care Week, we reaffirm our commitment to serve our homeless population by upgrading our main vehicle to do this.”

As administrator of the HRSA, the Federal agency that partially funds UHC services, Dr. Betty Duke said she was “delighted” to join UHC and HRI to help introduce the van to the public. HRSA’s relationship with UHC dates back to 1996 when, at HRSA’s request, UHC took over the administration of two Community Health Centers in the District.

“Since then,” Dr. Duke said, “UHC and HRSA have worked as close partners to expand medical services to District residents who have no other way of accessing primary health care.”

“With this medical van, Unity can continue to bring a full range of life stabilizing medical services directly to thousands of D.C.’s homeless people right on the streets where they live,” said Dr. Duke. “This is part of HRSA’s national effort that serves more than 600,000 homeless adults, children, and families each year.”

Unity Health Care provides health care services to uninsured, underinsured and homeless men, women, and children in the District of Columbia. Last year it provided care to more than 57,000 people -- the working poor and their families. It is the fourth largest community health center in the nation, offering a full range of health care services regardless of patient's ability to pay. Unity Health Care's 24 neighborhood facilities and two mobile outreach vans reach every ward of the city. It is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by the Bureau of Primary Health Care through HRSA, private and local grants, and corporate and individual contributions.

Health Right, Inc. is a Medicaid Managed Care Organization, which serves over 12,000 members in the District of Columbia. It is owned by Unity Health Care and Columbia Road Health Services, two Federally Qualified Health Centers.

The Health Resources and Services Administration, one of 11 operating divisions in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, uses its \$7.4 billion annual budget (FY 2005) to expand access to quality health care for all Americans through an array of grants to state and local governments, health care providers and health professions training programs.