



Save Lives Save Dollars Fall Update

Activating Regional Health Care Transformation.

December 2009

GDAHC meets with Congressional Leaders on “the Hill”

As participants of the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s (RWJF) Project Connect**, Vernice Davis Anthony, **GDAHC** president, and Jerry Frankel, DO, president and CEO, **Oakland Southfield Physicians**, recently traveled to Washington DC to meet with Michigan’s congressional leaders. Project Connect is a RWJF program that helps its grantees build relationships with members of Congress and other policy members. What was on the agenda? Telling our story about what’s happening in healthcare in southeastern Michigan and making the pitch for our congressional leaders to get informed, stay informed and become a part of the solution.

Anthony and Dr. Frankel visited six House and Senate offices meeting with **Representative Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, Representative John Dingell, Representative John Conyers, Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Representative Gary Peters.**

The delegates were asked to support and partner with GDAHC to improve health care in our region. Anthony and Dr. Frankel also shared the tremendous work and accomplishments of GDAHC through implementation of the Save Lives Save Dollars program. During the visit to Washington DC, Anthony and Dr. Frankel were able to make an unexpected but fortuitous visit to the office of **Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.** They were not able to meet with her personally, but did have the occasion to briefly meet some of her staff.

General Dynamics Land Systems and MGM Grand Casino participate in Diabetes Education Program

Working to impact the cost and quality of diabetes care in southeast Michigan, the **SLSD Diabetes Education Team** has launched a pilot program to help people with diabetes better manage their care. **General Dynamics Land Systems** and **MGM Grand Detroit Casino** have recently signed up to participate in this program. Through their participation, MGM and General Dynamics employees with diabetes will receive **Diabetes Self Management Education (DSME)** worksite training to help them practice better lifestyle routines, and ultimately, improve their health. Employees will become more informed about the right nutrition, exercise and other choices they should make on a daily basis.

Modeled after a diabetes education program conducted at work-sites in St. Louis, Missouri, the program has been shown to help employers reduce health benefit costs, reduce absenteeism and improve productivity.

General Dynamics was the first employer group to sign up and classes started in early December. MGM plans to start classes in early 2010.

Our partners for this pilot program include the **American Diabetes Association, Rite Aid** and the DSME vendor, **Michigan Institute for Health Enhancement; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan** and **Health Alliance Plan**, covering the education costs for the pilot; and **Novo Nordisk**, providing funding for project management of the most recent phase of the pilot.

If you are interested in implementing the program at your site, contact Lisa Mason at 313-596-0811 or lmason@gdahc.org.

Stay in the know!

Don't forget to check out the SLSD member web site!

For the latest in SLSD member news go to www.gdahc.org and click on the SLSD icon.

When you access the Members Only site, you can share files, view a calendar of events, and participate in dialogue forums.

Don't have the password? Contact Tiffany Brent at 313-596-0818 or tbrent@gdahc.org.

Physician Organization report expands to include Medicaid HMOs

The **SLSD Physician Organization Performance Report** will expand to include Medicaid health plans. This is a significant step in development because the Medicaid health plans capture a significant portion of the population and allows for demonstration of how southeastern Michigan physician organizations are performing beyond the commercial population.

GDAHC has significantly engaged the major Medicaid health plans and there is great enthusiasm among the participating plans. The plans have agreed to report HEDIS metrics. A lead screening metric will be added to the metrics that are reported, due to the higher risk of lead poisoning among the population enrolled in Medicaid health plans.

Thank you to the **Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc. (CHCS)** for providing \$15,000 in funding as a seed grant to support the integration of the Medicaid data into our performance measurement and public reporting strategy.

Inclusion of the Medicaid health plans will also provide important race and ethnicity data. It will allow for analysis and development of targeted actions to reduce regional health care disparities.

The **Medicaid Plan Physician Organization Report** will be prepared separately, and, at this time, not merged with the commercial PO reports. The first report is expected to be published in the summer of 2010.

Peers from across the country meet to discuss progress

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF) *Aligning Forces for Quality*** initiative held its second national meeting this year providing an opportunity for *Aligning Forces* communities to come together to network, share best practices and to highlight their accomplishments. Nationally recognized experts made numerous presentations during the meeting to help the communities further develop and implement their strategies. Topics included performance measurement, public reporting, consumer engagement, quality improvement and reducing disparities.

THANK YOU to the community stakeholders that joined GDAHC staff for this meeting:

- Dave Lalain, **Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG)**, purchaser representative
- Paru Patel, **Sinai-Grace Hospital**, provider representative
- Patty McCarthy, **Michigan Cover the Uninsured Network**, consumer representative

Want the pulse on health care performance in southeastern Michigan? Go to:

**myCARE
COMPARE.org**

Committee Updates

After receiving approval from the **SLSD RITE Committee**, the **Low Back Pain (LBP) Team** is moving forward with implementation of the "**Ideal State**" **Vision** for the care of low back pain in southeastern Michigan. The "**Ideal State**" **Vision** defines roles for all stakeholders, including consumers, providers, purchasers and health plans. The vision identifies a comprehensive community approach, alignment of guidelines that are currently being utilized, alignment in payment approaches, more common approaches to centers of excellence when referrals are required, and a coordinated approach to working with physicians. The "**Ideal State**" **Vision** will lead to less variation in care, more cost effective care, and better outcomes for acute LBP care. The Team co-chairs and staff are convening and meeting with health plan leadership to collaborate on next steps.

The **Emergency Department Utilization** Team has finalized a set of recommendations to improve and influence better and more cost-effective utilization of emergency departments. Recognizing that patients, physicians, health plans and employers all play a significant role in modifying behavior related to emergency department use, the recommendations will target all of these stakeholders and the role they can play a role in creating change and improvements. Next steps include developing a multi-payer approach to measuring the rate of ED visits for primary care treatable conditions. The Team will roll out their recommendations in early 2010.

Staff Contact Information (313-963-4990):

Vernice Davis Anthony, President and CEO
Tiffany Brent, Program Assistant, tbrent@gdahc.org
Bridget G. Hurd, Vice President, bhurd@gdahc.org

Lisa Mason, Senior Program Manager, lmason@gdahc.org
Devorah Ehrlich Rich, Senior Program Manager, drich@gdahc.org
Jan Whitehouse, Senior Vice President, jwhitehouse@gdahc.org
Mallory Lawrenchuk, Program Manager, mlawrenchuk@gdahc.org



Thank you to the organizations and individuals who have committed and volunteered countless hours to make **GDAHC Save Lives Save Dollars** a benchmark for improving quality and reducing health care costs.