



Jan. 28, 2015  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Hospitals and Partners Hit Milestone in Healthy Outcomes Plan**

*Over 10,000 participants enrolled in statewide program to improve health*

**Columbia, S.C.** – South Carolina hospitals and their partners have enrolled 10,611 individuals in a Healthy Outcomes Plan (HOP). A South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) program, the HOP was established from the General Assembly’s Medicaid Accountability and Quality Improvement Initiative proviso. A HOP is a model based on individual hospital ideas and best practices to improve the coordination of care for an at-risk population and lower health care costs in a way that best works in their community.

Through the HOP program, over 10,000 individuals have now receive continuous and coordinated care through an ongoing relationship with a personal physician. The physician serves as a health care point of contact and designs a care plan around the participant’s needs.

“This program has been so successful because of the strong partnerships with we’ve developed with the hospitals and health care workers in South Carolina,” said Governor Nikki Haley. “We have 46 HOP programs in our state with 58 hospitals participating in those programs statewide. This program is another example of a South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid success story and another reason to celebrate across the state.”

There are 46 plans by South Carolina Medicaid-designated hospitals targeting more than 12,756 chronically ill, uninsured, high utilizers of emergency department services or inpatient services as part of SCDHHS’ HOP initiative. There is 100% hospital participation from the 58 South Carolina-Medicaid designated hospitals, with several hospitals collaborating on a HOP.

Thornton Kirby, president and chief executive officer of the South Carolina Hospital Association, said, “We are proud of our state’s hospitals and their valuable partners for making great strides to improve the health of high-risk, uninsured patients in their communities. HOP extends the efforts we began in 2009 with the AccessHealth SC networks, funded with help from The Duke Endowment, to improve care coordination and access to services along the health continuum. We are encouraged that HOP will influence the costs of healthcare and the health of patients enrolled in HOP throughout the state.”

Hospitals collaboratively built or expanded community-based plans to improve health care value in South Carolina through partnerships with 68 primary care safety net providers, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics and free clinics; 19 behavioral health clinics; and other social service and community organizations serving the uninsured. HOP partnerships go beyond health care providers to account for other economic and social conditions—like housing, transportation and food security—that may influence a participant’s health. These findings are shared with the physician at their assigned medical home and incorporated into the participant’s care plan.

“We know hospitals spent much of the first year developing the foundation of their HOP programs and focusing on outreach efforts to reach—these often hard to find—individuals,” said SCDHHS Interim Director Christian Soura. “Now in its second year, HOP will continue to enroll participants, but focus on developing individual care plans, enhancing partnerships and improving the health of participants. Working together, we can improve the overall health of South Carolinians, improve the patient experience of care and reduce per capita cost of health care delivery.”

**About the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

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