

Partners Honors Paul Viviano and Paul Torrens, MD During Annual Tribute Dinner

Monday, June 21st was a very special day for *Partners*. Not only was it a day to honor two very good friends of the agency for their contributions to the healthcare community, but it also marked the first time a large group of individuals had gathered in one place in Los Angeles since the pandemic lockdown began fifteen months earlier.

Those “two good friends” were Children’s Hospital Los Angeles President and CEO Paul Viviano, who was honored as the 21st recipient of *Partners* prestigious “Vision & Excellence in Healthcare Leadership” award, and Paul Torrens, MD,

Professor Emeritus of Health Policy and Management, Founder of the Paul Torrens Health Forum at UCLA, and former *Partners* Board Member who received *Partners’* Lifetime Achievement Award. This is only the second time in the agency’s history that this award has been bestowed on an individual. Accepting the award on behalf of his father, who was unable to attend, was son James Torrens.

Both these impressive healthcare leaders were honored as part of *Partners’* annual Tribute Dinner, which is held each June at the Beverly

Hilton Hotel. This year there were 400 healthcare executives from throughout the state attending in-person, in addition to another 125 participating virtually via Zoom.

According to June Simmons, *Partners’* President and CEO, “The two men we honored are such significant

individuals who have each had a major impact on the development and provision of health care services in California, the United States, and internationally as well.”

“Paul Viviano’s career and work with Children’s Hospital Los Angeles exemplifies

both vision and leadership. He has applied wonderful imagination, experience and talent while simultaneously serving as a tenacious agent of change. California’s children and its families are fortunate that Paul’s commitment is focused on helping them get through the trying times so many now face.”

Mr. Viviano is recognized as both a major health care leader and prominent advocate of child health. For over three decades, he has directed academic, nonprofit, and for-profit health care organizations delivering excellence in clinical care. Mr. Viviano



Paul Viviano



Paul Torrens, MD

joined Children’s Hospital Los Angeles as President and CEO in 2015 and serves as a member of its Board of Directors and Board of Trustees.

Prior roles for Mr. Viviano include CEO and Associate Vice Chancellor of the UC San Diego Health System, President and CEO of USC University Hospital and USC/Norris Cancer Hospital, various CEO roles within the St. Joseph Health System, and Chairman of the Board and CEO of Alliance HealthCare Services.

Dr. Paul Torrens is Professor Emeritus of Health Policy and Management, and founder of the Paul

Torrens Health Forum at UCLA. In his more than 40 years at the Fielding School, Dr. Torrens has patiently guided, mentored and advised generations of students, helping many shape distinguished careers in public health.

A physician by training, he has enjoyed a long career in both healthcare management and policy development. As a healthcare executive, Dr. Torrens held numerous executive positions in hospitals and health care organizations and served on the governing boards of Blue Shield of California and PacifiCare Behavioral Health

of California. In the health policy arena, he has served in a wide variety of advisory and consulting capacities to governmental and nongovernmental organizations both in the United States and additionally in 18 foreign countries. Thanks to his vision and leadership, the Paul Torrens Health Forum is a premier source of discovery and conversation about the prevailing public health issues of the day.

According to Simmons, “This recognition of Dr. Torrens is a fitting legacy for a man who

has done so much for so many. Those who have had the good fortune to know him have witnessed his decades of consistent, selfless, and brilliant contributions to both individuals and organizations. We are so pleased to recognize him with this award.”

Partners’ next Vision and Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Award Ceremony will take place on Monday, June 20, 2022, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.



Pictured from left to right: Jeff Worthe, President of the Worthe Real Estate Group and Chair of the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Board of Directors; Patty Maysent, CEO of UC San Diego Health; June Simmons, President and CEO of Partners in Care Foundation; Paul Viviano, President and CEO of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; and Marta Fernandez, Partner at Jeffers Mangels Butler and Mitchell and Chair of Partners’ Board of Directors.

Pictured from left to right: Tom Priselac, President and CEO of Cedars-Sinai Health System; Jack Schlosser, Founder & Principal, Desert Vista Advisors and Chair of the Tribute Dinner Committee; June Simmons, President and CEO of Partners in Care Foundation; Jim Torrens, accepting the award on behalf of his father; and Marta Fernandez, Partner at Jeffers Mangels Butler and Mitchell and Chair of Partners Board of Directors.



Meet the *Partners* Team

For over 20 years, *Partners* has been a significant change agent in the social determinants of health arena. We have been called a “powerful innovator,” a “leader of change” and a “source of charity for those most in need of help.” Our success is due to people who are passionate about making things happen and have the skills to bring ideas to fruition. In each issue, we introduce staff and Board members who have helped shape *Partners’* success.

Edward Kim

Chief Operating Officer, Lakeside Medical Group
Board Member of Partners in Care Foundation since August 2012

A senior health care executive with over 35 years of experience, Ed Kim has a great passion for driving up clinical quality and consumer satisfaction and driving down unacceptable waste and cost. He is presently the Chief Operating Officer for Lakeside Medical Group, part of the Heritage Provider Network, the largest privately held medical network management company in the West. Prior to that, Ed served as the market president over Cigna’s portfolio of commercial, individual/family, and Medicare Advantage products and network offerings to meet the evolving needs in Arizona. In his capacity as Corporate Vice President at Molina Healthcare, Ed oversaw the medical group assets in California and ultimately expanded the direct service delivery platform nationally.

During his tenure at Cigna, he is particularly proud of supporting disability awareness by working with the City of Phoenix to update disability logos to a more engaged look. He also helped train future leaders of health care by establishing an internship program with the master’s degree program in Health Management at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Married and father of twins, Ed enjoys golf, scuba diving and wines, and is a horology enthusiast.



Gerald J. Sullivan

Chairman, G. J. Sullivan Co., Reinsurance

Board Member of Partners in Care Foundation June 2006-2013; 2018 - Present

Gerald (“Jerry”) is the Chairman of Gerald J. Sullivan Co. Reinsurance with over 60 years of in-depth and extensive experience in numerous aspects of the insurance business including regulatory, investment, company, claims, program manager, reinsurance, and wholesale intermediary. Jerry grew up in an insurance family and moved to Southern California in the early ‘70s. He worked with George Walker in the development and expansion of a varied book of property and casualty business, including the largest medical professional liability insurance program in the U.S. During that time, Jerry also oversaw a large book of treaty reinsurance businesses on behalf of the family reinsurance intermediary firm, John F. Sullivan Co. In the early ‘80s, he established a company that was the core of The Sullivan Group. Along with various partners, Jerry developed new companies and insurance products such as structured settlements. With heavy emphasis on service to both clients and markets, Jerry’s leadership grew the Sullivan Group into one of the largest privately owned brokerages in the country providing services in the wholesale, reinsurance, and retail areas of the business. Jerry received his bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Washington and his master’s degree in business administration from the University of Pennsylvania.



Russ Donahue, MSM

Vice President of Marketing & Business Strategy,

Partners in Care Foundation

Russ Donahue has 36 years of marketing and communications experience working with health systems, medical practices, and community-based organizations in both New England and on the West Coast. Currently he serves as VP of Marketing and Business Strategy at the Partners in Care Foundation based in San Fernando, California. Prior roles include VP of Public Information, Government Relations, and Development for Northeast Health in Camden, Maine, Director of Marketing at St. Mary’s Health System in Lewiston, Maine, and President of HDS Communications in Freeport, Maine. Donahue is a recipient of the Maine Public Relations Council’s Edward Bernays Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the Council on a member. Volunteer activities have included time on the Boards of the Camden Shakespeare Company, American Red Cross, and Kiwanis. In his spare time, he putters in the gardens around his home. He is married and has two college-aged sons.



Partners at Work in the Community Destiny’s Story

Living on her own has been tough. Struggling with high blood pressure, depression, and injuries suffered when she fell from a stroke are more than a 64-year-old should bear. But Destiny has lived with all that and the additional challenges of chronic neck and back pain as well. Things began to change for her, however, when she was connected to Mariah Vega, a *Partners* HHP Care Coordinator.

Destiny enrolled in the Health Homes Program (HHP) in 2020. This program offers a specific set of care coordination services at no cost to individuals with chronic health conditions and/or a serious mental illnesses. HHP Care Coordinators conduct intake assessments and identify what community and medical resources a member needs to be connected to, whether it would be housing, mental health, employment assistance, durable medical equipment, care coordination with medical team, etc. They also provide the member with ongoing support on a weekly basis to help track their progress and provide them with resources regarding their chronic health conditions. This high touch, participant specific care is all coordinated with the participants assigned health plan medical care team.

Destiny is grateful to have someone like Mariah to count on for assistance when needed. She does have a son living close by, but he struggles with his own health challenges, so it’s essential that she has someone she can also turn to for help when she cannot do something on her own.

Mariah was able to provide her assistance with getting her current medication refills through a Primary Care Physician (PCP) instead of going to the Emergency Room (ER) for them. This made it easier to request medications over the phone, and then have them sent directly to her pharmacy to avoid long ER wait times and potential

exposure to other illnesses in the hospital. This also helped ensure medication adherence to avoid any medication related hospitalization.

Mariah also informed Destiny of great programs like the Dignity Fall Prevention Program that provided her with tools and services to live more safely at home, the Walmart Food Voucher Project that provided her with a gift card to purchase any necessities she may have, the *Partners* in Care Mental Health Support Pilot that arranged Destiny with a therapist to speak with to help manage her depression, and lots more!

Destiny was also very thankful for the assistance she received in scheduling a COVID-19 vaccine appointment while having to navigate a complicated system where appointments were being filled up quickly. Her Care Coordinator was able to locate a Rite-Aid less than a mile away from Charlotte’s home and arranged her transportation to the site.

Destiny also met the requirements to participate in the *Partners* Google Speakers Distribution Program that gifted Google Home speakers to help enhance digital access among older and disabled adults. *Partners* hopes that this new device can be used to make handsfree phone calls in the case of an emergency and get connected to valuable resources in her area.

It’s important to *Partners* that participants have the necessary tools and services to live safely at home and avoid unnecessary higher cost care. Destiny is a great example of an individual that had a lot of health challenges but thrived after receiving assistance from the Health Homes Program. She now lives comfortably knowing she can focus on her health with the support of Mariah and community organizations.

Technology Bridging the Digital Divide

With support from the Los Angeles County and LA City Area Agencies on Aging, *Partners* recently distributed 2,000 Google Home speaker devices to residents of Los Angeles County.

Recipients were adults 60 years of age and older, 18+ with a disability, or their caregivers, must have internet access and a smart phone or device that works with apps. Our goal was for these devices to serve as valuable resources to enable an individual's participation in online health programs while removing barriers that contribute to feelings of social isolation or loneliness.



Elizabeth Ogbomon, a senior citizen living in Los Angeles, was one of the recipients of the Google Home speaker devices and was excited to set it up with her grandchildren. She spoke about how it was a wonderful bonding experience to learn from the younger generation about new devices and emerging technologies, and she hopes the new speaker will make communicating with her family members much easier.

Although it may take a while to get used to, Elizabeth is optimistic about her experience with the new device and the potential it has to improve her digital literacy over time.

Partners Digital Equity Initiative really focuses on providing resources to close the digital divide for individuals like Elizabeth Ogbomon, as many older and at-risk adults are unaware of the different kinds of information and communication technologies out there.

Technology has become an increasingly essential tool for everyone, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This helps us stay connected to each other, and also to identify, access, and use services we all need to remain healthy and thrive.

With the Google Home speakers, adults can make hands-free phone calls to keep in touch with family members or call for aid in the case of a slip and fall emergency. They can also set up reminders for important dates and doctor appointments, as well as provide basic help around the house, like turning on lights, controlling thermostats, getting news updates, and turning on music or the television. The ability to perform small tasks handsfree has a great impact on quality of life and provide security, especially for those who require more assistance throughout their everyday life.

As part of the partnership with the LA County and LA City Area Agencies on Aging, *Partners* is also distributing three surveys, two prior to a client receiving a device and one post survey. These surveys are required by the California Department of Aging as part of its Google device distribution plan and will help provide a clearer picture of the motivators and challenges to digital literacy for older adults, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.

Recent News Update

Partners' Board of Councilors Convenes to Explore CalAIM

July 14, 2021, marked the fourth bi-annual meeting of the *Partners* Board of Councilors with a presentation on the latest information about California's CalAIM initiative and the fiscal impact of the newly enacted 2021-22 state budget. CalAIM is a multi-year initiative led by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). It is designed to improve the quality of life and health outcomes of Medi-Cal beneficiaries to help address many of the complex challenges facing California's most vulnerable residents. CalAIM takes a person-centered approach that targets social determinants of health and reduces health disparities and inequities.

Christopher Langston, PhD, CEO of the Archstone Foundation, moderated a panel of experts including Anastasia Dodson, the Associate Director of the California Department of Health Care Services, Office of Medicare Innovation and Integration. Her presentation focused on reducing complexities and addressing the social determinants of health to improve health outcomes for dual eligible individuals. Two DHCS colleagues, Susan Philip, Deputy Director of Health Care Delivery Systems, and Aaron Toyama, Senior Advisor for Health Care Programs, provided information about Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services and the proposed incentives to reduce costs through high utilization of these two new programs.

Jane Ogle, a Senior Advisor at California Health Policy Strategies, LLC, a Sacramento-based consulting firm, has decades of experience at DHCS working on Medi-Cal innovations. She shared her thoughts about the proposed CalAIM roll-out and the importance of ensuring its availability to dual eligibles throughout California. She also spoke about

the challenges health plans face in changing the way that they do business. June Simmons, President and CEO of *Partners*, rounded out the discussion with her remarks about the implications of CalAIM for the low-income individuals with complex disease and/or social needs.

The event was hosted by Lloyd Bookman, JD and Robert Lundy, JD, Board of Councilors' co-chairs. They joined Dr. Langston to facilitate a lively discussion about the benefits and challenges of CalAIM. Elaine Batchlor, MD, MPH, CEO of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital in South LA delivered an important reminder about the impacts of structural and systemic racism on our health care system and how CalAIM must be leveraged to address social and health inequities. She pointed to low Medi-Cal reimbursement rates that perpetuate health disparities for the predominantly Black and Latinx, dual eligible populations her hospital serves. South Los Angeles cannot attract enough doctors because of these low reimbursement rates. She also pointed to a system failure to invest in Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and prevention, leading to high utilization rates of invasive and expensive critical hospital care as a last resort to address health issues that might have otherwise been mitigated through social and preventative care. Her message was clear. If an elected official is going to campaign on a promise to address health disparities, then they must also campaign to improve the Medi-Cal system.

Our Board of Councilors serves as a high-level think tank providing a strategic review of *Partners'* initiatives focused on the social determinants of health and insight as to how emerging areas may affect those initiatives. The next meeting will be in January 2022.

Partners’ Leaders Named to National Planning Group to Align Social Care with Health Care

Partners’ President & CEO, June Simmons serves as Co-Chair of the group, together with Timothy McNeill of Freedmen’s Health. The falls prevention team also continues their work through another cycle of funding from ACL, in which they are working to spread seven different falls prevention programs across ten California counties. Members are identifying the strategies, scope, and structure to support successful partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) and health care organizations. The recommendations of the group will leverage existing capacity and investments to bridge health care and social service systems. The goal is to create a coordinated social determinants of health (SDOH) delivery system in every market with local networks of CBOs, organized by a local Network Lead Entity such as *Partners*, to assure sustainability of CBO’s as their services rolls in volume and expand.

Social determinants of health account for up to 80% of health outcomes.[i] By addressing barriers that individuals face in achieving optimal health, individuals live safer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives as they age. Moreover, there is a clear link between SDOH and health equity. One of the main ways in which racism and other structural forms of discrimination generate and exacerbate health disparities is barriers to access for social supports, healthy environments, and opportunities. We applaud June’s leadership in this important work and the light it shines on the importance of mitigating SDOH to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities.

[i] Magnan, S. 2017. Social Determinants of Health 101 for Health Care: Five Plus Five. NAM Perspectives. Discussion Paper, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, DC. <https://doi.org/10.31478/201710c>

While the work is ongoing through a grant funded through July 2023, accomplishments of the team’s recently concluded grant include an astounding 248 DSMP/CPSMP workshops and 67 CDSMP workshops held, reaching 4,237 participants across eight counties in California.

A similarly scaled statewide Community Wellness Department initiative, Falls Prevention, has achieved similar reach and impact under completed evidence-based workshops designed to improve their balance and enhance their fitness in a fun and interactive format. The falls prevention team also continues their work through another cycle of funding from ACL, in which they are working to spread seven different falls



prevention programs across ten California counties

We congratulate this team for touching the lives of thousands of Californians and for giving *Partners* national respect for our work. They make us very proud.

Kudos to our Division of Network Services

Partners has been a pioneer in the development of regional delivery systems for home and community-based services. There are so many separate agencies, and many agencies are too small for large health plans and health providers to contract with each. To solve this challenge and ensure high-quality, evidence informed services are available to those in need anywhere in California, *Partners* created the Partners at Home Network. Through Partners at Home, *Partners* can administer a contract on behalf of many agencies across various service areas, even including statewide, and give the health provider or payer the ease of contracting with just one entity to administer the contract requirements.

In that capacity, our Partners at Home Network has a contract to serve Anthem Blue Cross members across California. The success of the *Partners* at Home Network signifies a tremendous step forward in the re-shaping of healthcare and realizing our core Mission to align social care and health care to address the social determinants of health and equity disparities affecting diverse, under-served and vulnerable populations. Our Division of Network

Services, under the leadership of Ester Sefilyan, has done a tremendous job of not just “building” new services and service supports, but also meeting the needs of health plans and services providers. Those plans and providers want to ensure their members and patients have access to social interventions that are known to lead to more positive health outcomes and appreciate the ease of a one-contract system of administration.

And now, this team of *Partners* professionals has distinguished themselves by achieving “best in field” status as the most effective agency across that national delivery system. For the third consecutive quarter, our Engagement Center is rated #1 in the nation for Anthem Medicaid Engagement for Anthem’s Community Care Coordination Program (A3C).

These outstanding results are a true reflection of the talent and dedication of our staff members: Ester Sefilyan, Virginia Carone, Rebecca Holik, Andrew Calderon, Martha Delgado, Salman Mogaddedi, and their teams!

Congratulations to the entire Partners in Care Foundation Network Team!

Partners’ Community Wellness Department Wins National Recognition

We are proud of the outstanding work of our Community Wellness Department colleagues! This team focuses on bringing evidence-based self-management programs to people with health challenges – to assist them in building new skills and knowledge to increase their mastery over their health. The team has been recognized nationally for their scale of reach to populations and for the rapid adoption and scaling of multiple new evidence-based programs.

Our Community Wellness colleagues have distinguished themselves by winning multiple national Administration for Community Living (ACL) grants in a highly competitive process. These awards have allowed them to spread their work through capacity

building for programs across California. This work is complex and challenging, particularly as the pandemic changed the way in which we connect with the older adults with whom we engage.

Under the leadership of Dianne Davis, Vice President of the Community Wellness Department, project director Allison Goforth and Project Manager Katherine Keogh work in collaboration with eight California counties and lead efforts to leverage existing Chronic Disease Self-Management Education programming (CDSMP) to expand and sustain the Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSMP), Diabetes Self-Management (DSMP) and Chronic Pain Self-Management (CDSMP) programs.

Slate of New Officers: 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Partners is grateful for the thoughtful guidance, singular wisdom, and caring commitment of our Board of Directors. We welcome our latest Executive Committee and new Board Members for the upcoming year.

Executive Committee

Board Chair

Katherine A. Kirchhoff

Managing Director, Cain Brothers & Company, LLC

Vice Chairs

Cathi Cunningham

Partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP

Jack Schlosser

Founder & Principal, Desert Vista Advisors

Treasurer

Edward Kim

Chief Operations Officer, Lakeside Medical Group

Secretary

Jennifer L. Kozakowski

Chief Mission Integration Officer – South Bay, Providence Health

Past Chair

Marta Fernandez, JD

Partner, Jeffer, Mangels, Butler, and Mitchell

Members

Pete Brown

Communications Director, City of Los Angeles, Office of Councilmember Kevin de León

Terri Cammarano, JD, LLM, CHC

Senior Vice President of Legal Affairs and General Counsel, Cedars-Sinai

Paul Craig, JD

Chief Administrative Officer, Keck Medicine of USC

James B. Edwards

CEO, Cloudbreak Health, LLC

Seth Ellis

Vice President, Clinical Integration, MemorialCare Health System

Amanda Flaum

Healthcare Advocacy

Jennifer Heenan

Partner, Spencer Stuart

Gordon M. Johnson

President, Key Group

Eve M. Kurtin

Managing Director, Pacific Venture Group

Jim Lott, PsyD, MBA

Healthcare Advocacy

Robert W. Lundy, JD

Partner, Hooper, Lundy & Bookman

Peter Mackler

Healthcare Advocacy

Manoj K. Mathew, M.D., SFHM

National Medical Director, Agilon Health

Adriana Mendoza

Associate State Director, AARP California

Stephen T. O'Dell

Senior Vice President, Coordinated Regional Care/Prospect Medical Holdings

Alfred Poirier

Chief Deputy-Emergency Operations, Los Angeles Fire Department

W. June Simmons

President & CEO, Partners in Care Foundation

Alexander Strachan, MD, MBA

Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer, National Inpatient Care Management

Gerald Sullivan

Chairman, G. J. Sullivan Co., Reinsurance

Mari Zag

Director, AArete, LLC

Recently Awarded Grants

Individual, corporate, and foundation support make much of our work possible. Here are the most recent grants to advance *Partners'* Mission:

\$480,000

Archstone Foundation

The Archstone Foundation is supporting our innovative workforce development initiative aimed at providing an excellent and accessible training program for individuals interested in becoming a geriatric Community Health Worker (CHW). In partnership with Los Angeles Valley College, Rush University Medical Center, and the City of Los Angeles Area Agency on Aging, we will develop a training curriculum focused on preparing CHW's to bridge social care and health care for low-income older adults in Greater Los Angeles. The program, offered through our outstanding community college system, will be available at no cost to the student and meets a growing demand for skilled health workers to support California's growing aging population.

\$300,000

UniHealth Foundation

The UniHealth Foundation's recent award has provided a substantial boost to one of *Partners'* signature innovations, the Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium (GSWEC). *Partners* is the founder and convener of GSWEC, a collaborative of eight Southern California Schools of Social Work and twelve Centers of Excellence. The Centers of Excellence are top community organizations, including *Partners*, where field placements occur. This workforce development initiative combines instruction and practice interventions to prepare master's degree level social work students in the Southern California area for careers serving diverse, socially complex populations of older adults and their families. UniHealth Foundation funding will support outreach and create additional field placement opportunities, a new website, and fortify the alumni network, all with a goal of attracting more students of social work to become leaders in the field of aging.

\$75,000

Mericos Foundation

With a generous award from the Mericos Foundation, *Partners* will sustain and expand our Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) in Santa Barbara County. Our MSSP care managers are currently providing vital services and supports for 157 Santa Barbara residents. Our MSSP waiver clients are 65 years of age or older, low income, have met strict Medi-Cal eligibility requirements, and are functionally impaired. They need a level of care equal to that provided in a nursing home and their ability for self-care is compromised. Our MSSP team designs, implements, and monitors customized care plans for these very low-income frail seniors to help avoid or end placement in a nursing home and ensure a dignified and safe aging experience in their own home.

\$75,000

Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Through the generosity of the The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, *Partners* now has more resources to invest in its highly impactful Home and Community Based Alternatives (HCBA) waiver program. The HCBA waiver is designed to maximize community living for medically complex children and for very disabled adults. *Partners* currently serves medically complex individuals, infants through adults, in HCBA in the greater Los Angeles area. All participants are Medi-Cal beneficiaries. We support and sustain participants with care coordination and arrange for their nursing level of care needs so they can continue to live in the community. We also support and sustain participants' transition from skilled care or hospital facilities back to their homes. Our goal is to use this funding to enroll 192 new participants in HCBA during the one-year project period.



The Social Determinants Innovators

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Introducing Partners' New Mission Statement!

The Partners in Care Foundations' Board of Directors recently updated the new Mission statement for the organization in order to better align with current demands on the agency as well as better reflect the on-going work and priorities. The fact that the last Mission statement worked for *Partners'* first 23 years is a testament to the prescience of the agency's Founders.

Our updated Mission is to align social care and health care to address the social determinants of health and equity disparities affecting diverse, under-served and vulnerable populations.

At the same time our Values Statement was also modified as well. Now it states:

Our values are to:

- Provide national leadership as we work respectfully with those we serve and with public and private providers, payers, agencies, and funders.
- Develop innovations through our efforts focusing on new ways to effectively promote health-producing behaviors and establish supportive services that enable high-risk populations to achieve optimum functioning in community settings.
- Create impact as we create and scale easily replicable models of care to improve lives and then work for their broad adoption.

In this time of national reckoning with our country's history of racial and social injustice, *Partners* is proud of its historical commitment to addressing health disparities and building an organization that celebrates both diversity and inclusivity.