

Aligning Care to Eliminate Barriers

Partners has launched an innovative partnership with Coordinated Regional Care (CRC) designed to eliminate challenges associated with fragmented care sometimes experienced by Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) participants. The effort is possible due to a \$761,090 award from the California Department of Health Care Services.

According to June Simmons, President and CEO of *Partners*, “this funding allows us to build upon CRC’s existing integrated care system that delivers chronic care programs by amalgamating ECM/CS services with this existing model.”

Julia McConaghy, Chief Operations Officer at CRC added “services won’t be provided in silos, rather we will jointly coordinate these distinct service sectors to create synergies, leading to improved outcomes and a greater number of members served.”

This award from the Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Capacity and Infrastructure Transition Expansion and Development (CITED) initiative allows *Partners* to address silos within health care, especially those between medical and behavioral health providers, and CBOs providing social supports, that frequently lead to gaps and duplications that cause over utilization, as well as poor outcomes for ECM participants.

An exciting aspect of this initiative involves *Partners* working with Coordinated Regional Care (CRC) to provide a bold new service model that expands upon CRC’s virtually integrated



delivery system. This model seeks to meet the triple aim by unifying medical and behavioral health care with targeted ECM/CS services to improve population health.

The two organizations will be expanding upon current Chronic Care and ECM/CS programs and enhance CRC’s virtually integrated delivery system. Together, the two organizations will develop a care pathway between *Partners* and CRC that provides ECM members with exceptional clinical and social services.

Partners and CRC intend for this unique partnership to provide full care coordination with intensive medical care and a broad array of community and specialty services. The result should be successful member stabilization and improved health.

Introducing *Partners in Legacy*

We are pleased to share with you our legacy society's new name to help us celebrate *Partners'* 25th Anniversary – **Partners in Legacy**.

In commemoration of this milestone, we invite our friends and supporters to consider remembering *Partners'* with a bequest in their wills or trusts or a beneficiary designation of a portion of their retirement plans or life insurance policies. Your kind support will benefit *Partners'* work and the people we serve well into the future. If you are interested in making a planned gift with immediate impact that you can observe in the present, consider making that gift from your donor advised fund, family foundation, or directly from your IRA account (if

you are 70 or older).

Our goal is to enrich our legacy society with new members by the time of the formal celebration in October, 2023.

Regardless of the way

you choose to make your planned gift, we will be delighted to welcome you as one of our inaugural members of **Partners in Legacy**. Membership has its advantages! Throughout the year, you will be invited to special “members only” events and receive remembrances of your generosity available exclusively to members.

Partners' is currently in the process of building a new and invigorated planned giving program and we look forward to working with you and



your advisors to create your special legacy gift. In the next few months, we will launch a new planned giving website (www.partners-legacy.org) within the main *Partners'* website that will provide extensive information on various types of planned gifts and



allow us to model for you how these legacy gifts can work for both *Partners'* and for you and your loved ones. Once the planned giving website is active, watch for informational emails and

newsletters containing planned gift scenarios, donor stories and updates on tax and legal aspects of making a planned gift. Of course, we welcome your calls or emails at any time if you are thinking about leaving a legacy for *Partners'* and have questions or need assistance.

Please join us in celebrating *Partners'* Silver Anniversary in grand style by becoming a member of **Partners in Legacy**! Your planned gift will have an incredible impact on the future as well as the present. We are here to help you make the dream of legacy a reality!

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Partners at Work in the Community

Reducing Hospital Readmission for a Young Adult Living with Respiratory Challenges

At 31-years-old, Steve is quadriplegic, non-verbal, and is highly susceptible to respiratory illnesses. He resides in his Santa Clarita home under the care of his parents. In early 2017, he enrolled with *Partners'* Home and Community Based Alternative (HCBA) waiver, a program that helps individuals in need of high-level care continue to live at home and sustain their health and independence outside of an institution, and to prevent frequent emergency room visits and/or hospitalizations.

Steve unfortunately faced a lot of health challenges that resulted in frequent, long-term hospitalizations. In one year alone, he was in the hospital 200 out of 365 days. His most recent hospitalization was in 2021, when he was admitted for 3 months after contracting pneumonia. During this time, he relied heavily on a trach and ventilator and doctors were on high alert. They even told the family they did not believe Steve would survive. Despite doctors' concerns, the family remained hopeful and wanted to do everything they could for Steve.

Fortunately, Steve's health improved. After being discharged, the family worked with their social work care manager from *Partners'* to come up with a new care plan to support Steve and to help reduce readmission to the hospital.

The *Partners'* social work care manager referred Steve to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and set up in-home appointments for updated booster shots. With Steve's complex health conditions, it was vital that he had the maximum protection against COVID-19, but he wanted to avoid getting boosted in public settings like hospitals, clinics, drugstores, etc., that might expose him to respiratory infections. Knowing the County had

in-home booster appointments available was a relief.

Through the HCBA waiver program, Steve was able to receive numerous services that supported in-home care, like 420 total Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) hours. Their social work care manager connected the family with LVNs from Fantasia Healthcare, a home health agency in Los Angeles. The LVNs were incredibly knowledgeable of the kind of care Steve needed, and provided his family with tips they could do at home to better support his health conditions. Previously, his parents took on most of the care responsibilities. Now, they are incredibly grateful for the extra assistance at home. With the consistency of care, where LVNs assigned have remained long term and are practically a part of the family, according to



Steve's parents, the positive outcome of remaining home with the significant reduction in hospitalizations appears evident.

Through the HCBA waiver program, Steve's family also received IHSS hours, which provided his parents with compensation for an allocated number of hours they spend caring for Steve. He was also

provided with paramedical services, respite, and other personal care services to support him remaining safely at home.

With the collaborative help from *Partners'* HCBA program and LVNs from Home Health services, Steve's health is more manageable and stable. Since his last hospitalization in 2021, Steve has been able to remain at home and thrive without being readmitted to the hospital for over a year. Steve and his family are the perfect example of how *Partners'* programs can keep individuals in the community home of their choice while reducing hospital readmission and avoiding institutional placement.

Meet the *Partners* Team

For 25 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 newsletter, we introduce Board members who help shape *Partners*’ success.

Donald H. Crane

Former President and CEO, America’s Physician Groups

Partners in Care Foundation Board Member since May 2022



Don Crane is the former President and CEO of America’s Physician Groups (APG), the nation’s leading professional association representing medical groups and independent practice associations practicing coordinated care. APG is the nation’s largest trade association that explicitly promotes capitation as the payment model for its members, all of whom accept various forms of risk-based capitation or other population-based payment. These groups are in the forefront of healthcare reform and represent the care model and payment methodologies adopted by federal legislation for the entire nation.

Crane served as President and CEO of the organization from 2001 to 2022. During his tenure, APG expanded from being a division of a regional hospital trade association consisting of 40 member groups to a national professional association consisting of over 340 physician organizations in 45 states, Washington, DC, and

Puerto Rico. Those physician groups employ or contract with approximately 170,000 physicians that provide care to approximately 90 million patients. Under Crane’s leadership, APG has become the leading voice promoting value-based care in federal and California advocacy.

Crane currently serves on the advisory committees of several physician organizations and is providing consulting services to a number of healthcare firms operating in the value-based space. A seasoned healthcare attorney, Crane has served as corporate counsel for several major integrated health systems. Crane speaks regularly on healthcare issues to a wide variety of physician groups, hospitals, and other professional meetings. In 2016, Crane received the prestigious Mathies Award for Vision and Excellence in Healthcare Leadership. Crane received his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, and his J.D. from Loyola University of Los Angeles.

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HomeMeds Changes Molly’s Life

78-years-old Molly was recently discharged after spending 50 days in two different hospital and rehab centers. She lives with multiple chronic conditions like lung and lymph node cancer, type II diabetes and ulcerative colitis, otherwise known as IBD. Her IBD symptoms were so severe they led to malnourishment and significant weight loss. Molly was also taking 29 prescribed and over-the-counter medications and reported experiencing a lot of weakness and dizziness.

Molly is a member of the Kenneth Young Center, a *Partners*’ HomeMeds licensee, and they identified her as a great candidate for the medication management program. Their care coordinators conducted a HomeMeds assessment, where they inventoried all her prescribed medications, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, herbals, and supplements in the home.

Following the assessment, Molly was provided with a pharmacist letter that included recommendations on changing how and when to take certain medications, as well as educational handouts for her specific chronic conditions.

Molly reflects, “the information gained is more than what I got spending 50 days in the hospital talking to the doctors!” As a result of the assessment, she altered her diet to avoid foods that may aggravate IBD symptoms, and started to incorporate foods that will calm them and promote healing. Pharmacists also suggested adjustments in her medications, and she now has reported improvements in her IBD symptoms, less dizziness and feels stronger after making the adjustments.

If HomeMeds sounds like a service your organization should be considering, please email HomeMeds@picf.org

Urgent Needs Fund Campaign Success

At the end of the year, we asked our supporters to make the winter season easier and brighter for those in need by donating to our Urgent Needs Fund. Thanks to our generous Board of Directors, Board of Councilors, Executive and Senior Staff Members, Foundations, and many other individual donors and supporters, we were able to change the lives of so many!

We raised a record total of over \$108,000!

Because of your generosity, *Partners* helped:

- **35 families** with respite care who were struggling to care for a loved one.
- **10 older adults** with health coaches and mobility classes.
- **5 older adults** with a tablet and one year of internet access to fight isolation.
- **6 older adults** with nutritious meal services.
- **15 children** with complex medical needs.

Every dollar donated made a difference in the services *Partners* provided to those in our care. We turned your generosity into compassion and support for tens of thousands in our community this year. With generous donors like you, our Urgent Needs Fund allowed us to meet the needs that other sources cannot. We could not help everyone on our own, but with your support, we expanded our reach and made a difference in so many lives together. Thank you!

Partners 23rd Annual Tribute Dinner

The Premier Healthcare Leadership Event

Monday, June 12, 2023
Honoring



Johnese Spisso, RN, MPA

*President, UCLA Health
CEO, UCLA Hospital System
Associate Vice Chancellor,
UCLA Health Sciences*

**Vision & Excellence
in Healthcare
Leadership Award**



Robert K. Ross, MD

*President and
Chief Executive Officer,
The California
Endowment*

**Lifetime
Achievement
Award**

Join us for this special evening at the Beverly Hilton celebrating and honoring two esteemed members of the LA Healthcare Community whose work has transformed the delivery of care for our families and friends.

Become A Sponsor

Partners' Tribute Dinner gathers the top hierarchy of the LA healthcare community - representing medical practices, health systems, hospitals, health plans, government, and allied fields. Annually, it honors, recognizes, and hosts the movers and shakers that drive innovation and impact in the field.

Your organization is welcome to join us and enjoy recognition as a supporter, sponsor or advertiser connected with this elite event.

Visit www.picf.org/events/tribute-dinner/ to learn more, or contact Victoria Loy at vloy@picf.org to discuss the many options available.

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**In progress, as of press date*

In Memoriam

Allen Mathies, Jr., MD

Partners in Care Foundation is deeply saddened by the passing of our Founding Board Chair Allen Mathies, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Mathies was former CEO & President Emeritus of Huntington Hospital, as well as Dean Emeritus of Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Dr. Mathies is honored by us for his remarkable governance as the last Board Chair of the Visiting Nursing Association of Los Angeles (VNA-LA). He helped them through challenges and was a major decision maker. When the VNA was sold in 1997, he carried to independence the VNA Foundation, the base for us as the Partners in Care Foundation. He was a trusted confidante and mentor of President and CEO, June Simmons, and was instrumental in the launch of the agency when he helped to bring over key board members of VNA-LA to *Partners*.

We were proud to have Dr. Mathies not only as a Founding Chair of *Partners'* Board of Directors from 1997 to 2004, but also as a founding member of our Board of Councilors. June had a long history with Dr. Mathies that dates to his time as CEO at Huntington Hospital where she started her work as the first social work leader and rose to health care administrator. As the founding board chair for *Partners*, he and June worked together



to continue to devise innovative approaches to transform and align social care and health care delivery.

In 2000, at *Partners'* first inaugural Tribute Dinner, we recognized Dr. Mathies and his wife Weta Mathies as first recipients of the prestigious Vision & Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Award, which we also named the Mathies Award in honor of their extraordinary leadership.

Dr. Mathies has contributed so much to our agency's formation and legacy as well as to our communities as a health care leader. He will be remembered for his positive influence in transforming the industry.

Partners' extends its deepest sympathies to Dr. Mathies' family and loved ones. We honor his life, his wisdom, compassion, and grace.



(Left to Right): Weta Mathies, June Simmons, and Allen Mathies, Jr., MD at *Partners' 20th Annual Tribute Dinner*

In Memoriam

Paul Torrens, MD, MPH

Partners in Care Foundation was honored to have leadership from Paul Torrens, MD, MPH, and is sad at his passing. He was a renowned health care leader and our former Board Member and Past Honoree.

We were proud Dr. Torrens was a long-time member of our Board of Directors from 2006 through 2015. He also was a member of our Board of Councilors. In 2021, he was recognized with our distinguished "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his legendary mentorship and leadership in the healthcare field. He was only one of two leaders to receive this honor in over twenty years!

Dr. Torrens was a legendary Professor Emeritus of health policy and management and founder of the Paul Torrens Health Forum at UCLA. He is perhaps best known among his colleagues in the healthcare world for patiently guiding, mentoring, and advising generations of students, helping to shape many distinguished careers in public health.

"Dr. Torrens was treasured as a mentor and guide to hundreds of essential healthcare leaders," said June Simmons, President and CEO of *Partners*. "His impact has been immeasurable."

Dr. Torrens had an ability to identify, develop and mentor talent. He played an instrumental role in not just the education, but the career development of more individuals in the Southern California healthcare

sector than any other individual in the last 30 years. A physician by training, he enjoyed a long career in both health care management and policy development. As a health care executive, he 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. As a health policy expert, Dr. Torrens served in a wide variety of advisory and consulting capacities to governmental and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the United States and in eighteen foreign countries.

Partners extends its heartfelt condolences to Dr. Torrens' wife Jacquelyn Torrens, his family, and loved ones. We honor his life and legacy.



Dr. Paul Torrens and June Simmons at Partners 14th Annual Tribute Dinner.

Partnership Delivers Through Cross-Sector Collaboration

The healthcare landscape is rapidly changing to recognize the impact of health-related social needs (HRSNs) on clinical outcomes and total cost of care. Social care interventions aligned with healthcare promise to impact these critical outcome measures.

Community-based social service partners provide the key interventions that address health-related social needs. They improve both individual and population health and are essential components for equitably and comprehensively addressing the health-related needs of vulnerable populations.

Throughout its first year, the *National Partnership to Align Social Care (Partnership)*, co-chaired by Partners in Care Foundation President & CEO, June Simmons, is leading solutions to the well-established recognition that cross-sector collaboration is a critical component to fully aligning health and social care. Formally established in January of 2022, the *Partnership* aims to co-design and build efficient and sustainable health and social care ecosystems needed to provide individuals with holistic, equitable, community-focused, and person-centered care.

Critical planning funding came from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, support from other foundations, and sponsorships from major health plans and systems. The *Partnership* has made impressive strides during its first year-long planning process. Leadership is from major health plans, health systems, community-based organization networks, BIPOC led and serving groups, government, and other national organizations. They bring their commitment, experience, and insights



to co-designing an aligned health and social care ecosystem that includes clear roles and accountability for payers, health systems, consumer voice and community-based organization networks. This work is grounded in shared governance to promote health equity. *Partnership* members envision a future where synergistic alignment between social services and healthcare has a transforming impact on health outcomes for people and communities.

Much of the *Partnership's* goal to foster input, investment, and commitment from more than 75 multi-sector stakeholders with the shared vision of achieving an equitable

health and social care ecosystem is achieved within the *Partnerships'* workgroups. The *Partnership* established three specific working groups to advance critical first-year deliverables for this project. With cross-sector participation and leadership these workgroups have produced the originally outlined deliverables including:

- Creating foundational materials to inform, define, and guide establishment of Community Care Hubs and identify essential functions and standards of these entities. This includes an extensive base of resources and research, and identifying best practices and strategies for payers and stakeholders working with CCHs;
- Building upon existing national and regional efforts and trends to identify knowledge gaps and augment contracting issues for CBOs and CBO networks with health systems and health plans; and
- Developing a set of accepted core billing codes for the most common social and community contracted services for key populations; exploring policy recommendations and opportunities to move

health impacting social care interventions under the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR); and encourage full integration that will assure long-term sustainability.

Additionally, the *Partnership* has responded to emerging priorities and opportunities to ensure that social care services and care coordination are recognized as an integral component within an equitable multi-stakeholder health and social care ecosystem. With the shared leadership of health plans, systems, and others, *Partnership* stakeholders have coalesced around opportunities to promote and protect the vital role and voice of CBOs and others who represent the community, including those with lived experience, in the design and governance of these ecosystems. As we complete the *Partnership's* inaugural year and disseminate vital year-one deliverables, we have begun building

the foundation and building blocks to achieve transformational change in the health and social care landscape.

In the coming year, our initiatives will center around building capacity by implementing and disseminating the resources and deliverables developed during the *Partnership's* first year. These priorities include bringing Community Care Hub regional delivery models to scale in markets across the country. Additionally, the *Partnership* + NCQA will launch a learning collaborative focused on incorporating the vital voice of the community and promoting CBO/ CCH roles in ongoing health equity planning and accreditation efforts.

To learn more about the *Partnership to Align Social Care* and to get involved, sign up at <https://www.partnership2asc.org/sign-up/>

Upcoming Events



23rd Annual Tribute Dinner
Honoring Johnese Spisso, RN, MPA
and Robert K. Ross, MD
Monday, June 12, 2023 | 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
The Beverly Hilton Hotel



25th Silver Anniversary Celebration
October 2023 | Details to follow

Board of Councilors Winter Meeting Update

The Board of Councilors held its biannual meeting on January 26, led by Co-Chairs, Lloyd Bookman and Robert Lundy. The meeting included a panel discussion titled, *“The Impact of CalAIM Procurement on Provider Networks and Enrollees,”* and featured presentations by members Castulo de la Rocha, Thomas Priselac, and Paul Viviano.

After the presentations, the panelists concluded with a Q&A discussion. The next meeting of the Board of Councilors is scheduled on **Wednesday, August 9, 2023**. For more information about Partners in Care Foundation Board of Councilors and to read the biographies of its members, be sure to visit us at: www.picf.org/about-us/board-of-councilors/



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Be a Part of *Partners* 25th Silver Anniversary— *Share Your Memories and Keepsakes*

Partners' 25th anniversary celebration is only a few months away in October 2023! We invite you to become a part of history and help us tell your Silver Anniversary story by “lending” us any *Partners'* memorabilia you may have along with a few memories associated with your keepsakes. For information or to offer a memento, contact Karen Schneider at kschneider@picf.org. We promise to return your special items in their original pristine condition following the event!