



Because of You

“Who will redefine healthcare? By joining together with public and private sectors, Partners in Care Foundation seeks to shape an efficient, compassionate, and responsive system of care for at-risk individuals, families, and communities. The issue is not doing more. The issue is doing better.”

-June Simmons, Partners in Care Foundation CEO and President, 1997



Allen Mathies, MD



June Simmons

Twenty-five years ago in 1997, Partners in Care Foundation began its extraordinary work. At that time, an exceptional group of individuals coalesced around a shared vision of what



Scott Gaudineer

was required to meet the social care needs of the frail, the chronically ill, the disadvantaged, and the elderly. These included June Simmons, the agency's founding CEO, Dr. Allen Mathies, who served as the first Board Chair, Co-Chair Scott Gaudineer, and thirteen additional initial board members (see sidebar) who brought enthusiasm and insight to the agency's formation.

Partners is frequently observed as being “ahead of its time.” That certainly was the case with this exceptional group, as their leadership and support led to the agency building out and implementing the concepts that would come to be known today as the social determinants of health, or SDOH.

Partners in Care Foundation Initial Board of Directors

- Allen Mathies, MD - Chair
- Scott Gaudineer - Co-Chair
- June Simmons - Founding CEO
- Richard Baumer
- Hector Baylon
- Doug Emslie
- Fran Hanckel
- Gordon Johnson
- Gary Kaplan
- Bob Lundy, JD
- Virginia Perrett
- Blanche Ross Smith
- Dan Slate
- Barbara Solomon, PhD
- Adrian Stern
- Dan Sullivan

Recollections: Proud to be Part of the Legacy

From Steve O'Dell

President, Coordinated Regional Care Group, Prospect Medical Holdings
Partners in Care Foundation Board Member 2008 to present; Board Chair, 2014 & 2015



I became involved with Partners in Care Foundation in 2008 when I read about a position paper it wrote in support of Governor Schwarzenegger's healthcare reform plan. The position was similar to mine and to the

company I worked for at the time, so I called June to discuss potential synergies with *Partners*. As I learned more, I found that *Partners* championed the belief that social care aligned with medical care is critical to the health and wellbeing of those socio-economically disadvantaged covered under Medi-Cal and other government programs in our health system. My company had dedicated significant resources under my leadership to invest in meeting the needs of the Dual Eligibles and I had never encountered an organization so focused on action to meet the social determinants of health for such underserved populations. In June's inimitable way, she made me an offer I couldn't refuse - to join the *Partners* Board.

For fourteen years, I have remained a committed Board member and past Chair to the mission, leadership

and operational execution *Partners* has achieved in advocating for and serving the social care needs of these too often unseen and underserved citizens by our health care system. It is one thing to advocate on behalf of the underserved in our healthcare system as *Partners* has since 1997. It is another to become recognized as a national leader in that advocacy as *Partners* has - especially with June's recent co-leadership of the industry-leading Partnership to Align Social Care, among many other examples. But it is entirely on another level to have built such a large, dedicated staff and extensive infrastructure to innovate, test and build solutions and serve this population with programs and services to meet their social care needs and improve their health and wellbeing. Many other individuals and organizations now talk about social determinants of health - *Partners* in Care Foundation has been doing remarkable things in meeting those needs for 25 years and I am proud to be a small part of that legacy.

From Jody Dunn

Partners in Care Foundation First VP of Strategic Marketing
Partners in Care Foundation employee from 1997 to 2015

In the agency's early years, we recognized two of our greatest strengths were the new ideas we developed regarding social care, and the variety of organizations with whom we collaborated. Since those days, the impact *Partners* has achieved has led to broad recognition for the agency. Used to be when we

introduced ourselves, people would say "I'm not familiar with your organization." Now it is not only "I know what you do," but "I know you are the experts and I'd like to work with you."



Through the intervening years *Partners* has continued to serve as a thought leader and think-tank, exploring and developing innovative approaches to social care that can best impact the social determinants of health in real life. We remain focused on changing the shape of healthcare by defining, then demonstrating the value of social care in furthering the healing process, thus enabling people to maintain their independence and remain at home.

This organization has been recognized as "visionary" for its development of innovative and powerful models of social care coordination. Just as critically, we have translated those bold and innovative approaches to care into real care systems that provide evidence-based and effective services to thousands of people every year - over 2 million so far.

During the past twenty-five years, *Partners* has worked with many individuals and organizations towards achieving our mission of aligning social care and health care with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of people with complex health needs. Our staff has gone from a small and determined number to more than 250 talented and passionate individuals all focused on the same goal. The *Partners* Board of Directors has been steadfast in its guidance and support. Many of the funders that started with us - such as the John A. Hartford Foundation and Archstone Foundation - continue to be enthusiastic as backers of our efforts.

We have been fortunate to see our care models adopted both in California and

nationally. *Partners* serves as co-chair and founding member of the Partnership to Align Social Care, a vital national think tank that is redefining the relationships between community-based organizations like ours, health systems, physicians, and health insurance plans. Its goal is to co-design how social care and health care work together in a synergistic manner to improve the health outcomes and well-being of people with complex healthcare needs.

In that initial brochure from 1997, June Simmons is quoted as saying "The issue is not doing more - it is doing better." We have seen steps in that direction here in California with the strategic alignment of health care and social care through the state's recent Medicaid redesign, known as CalAIM. We are starting to witness the earliest evidence of its improvements in health and wellness for the highly vulnerable, medically complex people we serve.

Through it all, our success has directly resulted from those we work with sharing our passion, our enthusiasm, our strong belief, that the frail, the chronically ill, the disadvantaged, and the elderly deserve better.

We have been here for twenty-five years **because of you** - our staff, our board, our funders, our volunteers, our donors, our professional colleagues, our partners, and our friends.

Working together we keep these innovations advancing so that we can ensure the opportunity for everyone, regardless of life circumstance, to live with dignity and optimal health in a home of their choosing.

From Barbara Solomon, PhD

USC School of Social Work (retired)

Partners in Care Foundation Board Member from 1997 to 2006; Vice Chair 2002 to 2005; VNCS Board 2006 to present



I think *Partners* has taken the concept of collaboration as a means of improving healthcare delivery very seriously. The agency has a model that says, “If you really, really want to help, then you have to have everybody at the table. You have

to have not only the providers, you have to have those who need the help.”

When *Partners* wanted to be more engaged in South Central Los Angeles, we set up an advisory committee

that would look at the terrible needs of that community. I felt that having been a part of that community for many, many years, that I could be of assistance in helping to connect *Partners* with the communities that made up South Central, where our services were so terribly needed. My role as a community member also made it possible for me to be aware of the places where *Partners* could actually go to get the financial support they needed to provide services in those communities.

From Gordon Johnson

President, Key Group

Partners in Care Foundation Board Member from 1997 to present; Treasurer 2016 to 2021

Many people aren't aware that *Partners* staff have been the researchers and creators of programs that are now in widespread use, even when our name doesn't appear beside them publicly. For example, *Partners* worked with Kaiser Permanente in developing what's now known as Palliative Care. We worked to convert Medicare's time-limited hospice program to something that allowed people with end-stage diseases to manage those processes on their own timeframe, and in the environments they were most comfortable with.

We also partnered with UCLA Medical Center to test methods to minimize re-admissions to the hospital, by

creating the protocols that allowed social workers and other community care providers to assess needs that would, if not addressed, often result in hospital re-admission. Seemingly minor issues, such as nutrition, fall hazards, medication interactions and problems getting to follow-up appointments turned out to be major factors in the relapse process. By addressing those in coordination with the medical staff, we could dramatically reduce the readmission rate.



From Frances Hanckel

COO, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center (Retired)

Partners in Care Foundation Board Member 1998-2018, Chair 2000-2002



Early in *Partners*' formation, June Simmons brought together a group of women, each active in health care, who met regularly, first to discuss the current health care environment, and then to brainstorm what changes would

improve services in Los Angeles and serve as a catalyst

for others to do the same. We quickly narrowed our focus to how community-based services could function effectively to provide local, real care services that would work together at far lower cost. I like to think this group- helped “birth” the concept of *Partners*. It has been a privilege to stay connected with *Partners*.



Collaboration



Innovation



Impact



For 25 years *Partners* has been reshaping the way people are helped when they face a health issue, an issue of aging, or an issue of danger to their independence. We help them be safe in the setting where they choose to live – either in their home or elsewhere in the community. We are proud to share the following as a few highlights of our accomplishments. Some significant activities from the past 25 years.

Partners formed out of Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) with one big idea in mind – that people should be able to enjoy living in the community and their home for as long as they can.



First annual Vision & Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Tribute Dinner held – honored Dr. Allen and Weta Mathies.

Community Wellness won first national ACL grant through National Council on Aging. Healthy Moves Project begins – first Falls Prevention work.



Community Wellness creates first statewide Evidence-Based Health Self-Management Coalition in partnership with California Department of Aging – to build capacity throughout California – first of a series of national scaling grants of this type in years to come.

PARTNERS COMMUNITY WELLNESS



Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium formed and launched – to date have graduated over 1,000 individuals who have become leaders in aging.



John A. Hartford Foundation grant received to adapt HomeMeds for dissemination through Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) nationally.

Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) launched in South LA. Today, the program is the largest MSSP provider in CA, serving frail elderly to maintain independence at home, to be kept out of a nursing home.



Partners serves as anchor community resource to transform vacant San Fernando Mission hospital as our new headquarters office – with accompanying neighborhood community clinic. Renovation of the aging city building thanks to many public and private funders.

Home Palliative Care research wins Kaiser Permanente national VOHS quality prize and thus won status as an actual benefit for all KP members.



2005

2009

Partners' community expert "Think Tank" produces Principles of Effective Health Care Reform as guide to California and National debate - boldly recommending moving MediCal to managed care model.



Partners leads in development of Aging and Disability Learning Network through National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A - now USAging) to build business acumen of CBOs.



2013

Community Care Transitions Program (CCTP) demonstration project proves value of care transitions and puts *Partners* on a national stage as one of top five agencies in the nation successfully reducing readmissions.



John A. Hartford Foundation funds development of first community care hub (CCH) prototype.

2013



Blue Shield of California contracts with *Partners* to achieve first statewide CCH.

2014

Partners at Home (PAH) network, our first CCH model, was formed, with CBO *Partners* throughout California.



2014

Partners' Engagement Center formed as an internal call center and quickly achieves outstanding results for contacting and enrolling individuals into our service programs.



Community Wellness lands another Administration for Community Living (ACL) Fall Prevention grant which places *Partners* as a national leader in the statewide system for dissemination of evidence-based health self-management programs, such as Matter of Balance, etc.



2015



Partners wins first National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation, one of first CBOs in nation to win this.

2015



Began offering Home and Community Based Alternatives waiver program providing care management services to persons with complex health and functional challenges, thus supported to address risk for nursing home or institutional placement.

Innovative Health Home Program (HHP) care management contracts signed, and services begun.



Board of Councilors formed as a high-level "think-tank" for the organization.

Partners becomes a leading Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) Medi-Cal provider.



Partners workforce grows to 250 employees.



GuideStar Platinum Transparency status achieved.



Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Program developed with and for Blue Shield of California.



ARCHSTONE FOUNDATION

Community Health Worker training program launched in conjunction with Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) with multi-year support from the Archstone Foundation.

Partnership to Align Social Care

A National Learning & Action Network

National Partnership to Align Social Care developed and co-led by *Partners*. A health cross sector co-design consortium formed of national healthcare and academic leaders to shape new health delivery around SDOH.

With state funding, Workforce Development Training Center launched to provide social care training for CHWs and other staff groups to learn how to work with older adults.





Partners in Care
FOUNDATION

Driving the new shape of care

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Announcing Partners in Care Foundation's 24th Annual Tribute Dinner

Honoring:

Gustavo Valdespino

President & Chief Executive Officer of Valley Presbyterian Hospital

with the prestigious *Vision and Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Award*

and

Martha Santana-Chin

Medicare and Medi-Cal President at Health Net

with the distinguished *Champion for Health Award*

Monday, June 10, 2024 • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

The Beverly Hilton Hotel

To learn more or make reservations: www.picf.org/events/tribute-dinner/