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**ACAP RECOGNIZES DENNIS HEAPHY OF MASSACHUSETTS
WITH 2014 *LEADERSHIP IN ADVOCACY* AWARD**

WASHINGTON – The Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) today honored Dennis Heaphy, a health care analyst for the Disability Policy Consortium in Massachusetts and co-chair of Disability Advocates Advancing our Healthcare Rights, DAAHR, with the group’s *Leadership in Advocacy* Award. Mr. Heaphy was recognized for his efforts to assure key consumer protections for persons with disabilities as aspects of the Affordable Care Act were implemented, including demonstration projects designed to serve persons dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The award was presented today at a gathering of health plan policy leaders in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Heaphy was cited for his leadership role in advocating for improvements to care for individuals living with disabilities through the design of the One Care “duals demonstration” program in Massachusetts. Duals demonstrations are new models aimed at aligning financing between Medicare and Medicaid for states that seek to integrate primary, acute, and behavioral health and long-term supports and services for people enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid. States enter into contracts with both health plans and CMS and have some latitude in the specifics of benefit design.

Among the consumer protections arising from Mr. Heaphy’s advocacy are the establishment of a coordinator for independent living long-term supports and services to help medical providers understand the role of non-medical care in overall health and an implementation council comprising a wide range of stakeholders—including persons with disabilities—to monitor the implementation of the OneCare program.

“Dennis exemplifies the kinds of partnerships that Safety Net Health Plans seek as we work to deliver top-quality care—especially for populations such as dual eligibles,” said ACAP CEO Margaret A. Murray. “Everyone with a stake in better-coordinated care for dual eligible populations is vested in the program’s success, and we rely on input from advocates such as Dennis to make the transitions to the demonstrations as seamless as possible. We’re proud to honor him today.”

“Dennis has been a tireless advocate both for and within the disability community,” said Robert J. Master, M.D., CEO of Commonwealth Care Alliance, which nominated Mr. Heaphy for the award. Lois Simon, President of Commonwealth Care Alliance, added, “Dennis has seized on a unique opportunity to improve care and quality of life for persons with disabilities and has displayed tremendous savvy and persistence during the long and sometimes imperfect process of implementing the One Care program. All of us are in debt to Dennis for his constructive insight and substantial contributions.”

“This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the disability community to shape our own health care. Disengagement isn’t an option,” said Mr. Heaphy. “As soon as it was clear that the demonstration was moving forward, it was critical to bring together as many advocates as possible to make sure that these reforms were not just effective, but also equitable—especially for the underserved and those who live with mental illness. Community Care Alliance has been a true partner in our work. I’m thankful for their nomination and glad for the award today.”



Before joining the Disability Policy Consortium, Mr. Heaphy consulted with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, worked on HIV prevention through the Medical Foundation and has served on the faculty of Emmanuel College. He holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Divinity-Pastoral Care from Boston University, a Master of Education from Harvard University from Boston University and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Boston University.

For more information, visit ACAP's Web site at <http://www.communityplans.net>.

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About ACAP

ACAP represents 57 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 24 states, which collectively serve nearly ten million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other public health programs. For more information, visit www.communityplans.net.

About Commonwealth Care Alliance

Commonwealth Care Alliance is a nonprofit care delivery system committed to providing integrated health care and related social support services. Created in 2003, Commonwealth Care Alliance is a "consumer-governed" organization offering a full spectrum of medical and social services for people with complex needs covered under Medicaid and for those "dually eligible" for both Medicaid and Medicare. Commonwealth Care Alliance offers the Senior Care Options Program (HMO SNP) for dual eligible individuals ages 65 and older. CCA was awarded a 4.5 out of 5 star rating from the CMS 2014 Medicare Five-Star Quality Ratings System. No other Senior Care Options program in Massachusetts is rated higher for quality. Commonwealth Care Alliance also administers One Care: MassHealth plus Medicare, for dual eligible individuals ages 21 to 64. These comprehensive health plans provide all the services covered under Medicare and MassHealth, and other benefits as determined necessary by an interdisciplinary primary care team. Services are coordinated by the primary care team and are accessed through Commonwealth Care Alliance's preferred provider network. For more information, visit www.commonwealthcare.org.

About the Disability Policy Consortium

The Disability Policy Consortium educates, connects, and organizes people with disabilities to participate in the electoral and legislative processes, to become active in their communities, and to advocate for justice and equality. Since 1996, the DPC has provided the disability community a unified voice. Critical to the DPC's mission is the support and promotion of civil rights, economic justice, quality education, human services, and health programming at all levels of community and state systems, which we achieve through community organizing, grassroots advocacy, policy promotion, and collaborative projects with government and nonprofit entities. Visit www.dpcma.org for more.