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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jeff Van Ness, (202) 204-7515

**HENNEPIN HEALTH HONORED FOR
INNOVATIVE WORK WITH HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS**

Hennepin Health, an innovative health reform partnership between Minnesota’s Medicaid agency and Hennepin County, was honored by the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) with its ninth “Supporting the Safety Net Award” at ACAP’s CEO Summit today in Washington, D.C.

“Hennepin Health embodies what’s best about the care delivered by Safety Net Health Plans — whole-person care that leads to better health, at lower cost,” said ACAP CEO Margaret A. Murray. “It also shows the powerful improvement that plans can make on members’ lives, when they forge partnerships outside the traditional silo of health care and address the underlying social factors that have such influence over people’s health status.”

Hennepin Health is a demonstration project that integrates medical, behavioral, and human services needs in a patient-centered model of care. The program has improved health outcomes dramatically and has lowered the total cost of providing care and services to a population that traditionally is very expensive to treat. The initiative is a collaboration of Minnesota’s Medicaid agency, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health, Hennepin County Medical Center, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, and Metropolitan Health Plan.

Hennepin Health currently serves about 8,700 Medicaid expansion enrollees. Members are adults without dependent children who earn an income that is less than 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Hennepin Health provides a suite of services that goes well beyond the traditional boundaries of health care. In addition to medical and behavioral care, the program offers housing assistance, vocational support and community resources to members who need it.

In only two years of operation, overall results for members are striking:

- 3 percent fewer inpatient admissions
- 9 percent fewer emergency room visits

Among medically complex program members who were provided supportive housing, results are even more dramatic:

- 30 percent fewer inpatient claims
- 50 percent fewer emergency room visits

The program has leveraged cost savings into additional innovative social and medical programming, such as community-based vocational service programs and targeted outreach to frequent emergency room users.

“We’re proud of our partnership with Hennepin Health,” said Karen Sturm, former CEO, Metropolitan Health Plan. “It shows that by stepping back and taking a more comprehensive approach to patient care, we can make great strides in patients’ care in a very short time. By focusing on not just medical care but also addressing social outcomes – behavioral health, housing, and job training – we’ve not just helped people lead healthier, happier lives, we’ve lowered costs and freed up resources that can address other needs here in Hennepin County.”



The “Supporting the Safety Net” award recognizes a community-based organization or individual that has implemented exemplary, innovative programs to meet the health needs of high-risk populations and that can serve as a model of best practices for other communities.

Previous winners include AmidaConnect (New York); the Harris County (Texas) Healthcare Alliance; Northern Colorado Health Alliance; Health Funders Partnership of Orange County, Calif.; Operation Safety Net in Pittsburgh; The Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers in New Jersey; Community Partners, Inc. of Amherst, Mass.; and the Baby Love Program at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

About ACAP

ACAP represents 58 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 24 states, which collectively serve nearly 12 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.

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