



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY HEALTH SAVES PRIMARY CARE FOR 43,000 PATIENTS: ACQUIRES MID-HUDSON HEALTH CARE NETWORK OF SIX HEALTH CENTERS

Major Financing provided by the New York State Health Foundation, the Primary Care Development Corporation and the Engelberg Foundation

IFH now the largest and most geographically diverse health care organization of its kind in New York State, employing more than 600 people.

NEW YORK - The Institute for Family Health today announced that it had acquired the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute, saving access to high quality primary care for 43,000 patients in New York's Mid-Hudson region.

The purchase of the Institute—which includes six health centers employing 41 primary care providers in New Paltz, Kingston, Ellenville, Hyde Park and Port Ewen—was the final step in a year long effort to merge the New York City based Institute for Family Health, and the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute.

“By combining experience, resources and quality of care initiatives, we will enhance the capacity of our expanded organization to deliver high quality, cost-efficient, integrated medical, dental and mental health services to patients throughout a large geographic area,” said Dr. **Neil Calman**, president and CEO of the Institute. “This joining provides the opportunity to strengthen and expand vital community service programs as well as training, faculty development and health services research activities. The combined organization will train 42 family practice residents per year in both urban and rural areas, helping to mitigate the shortage of primary care providers faced by the State.”

Last year, the Mid-Hudson Institute faced insurmountable financial difficulties due to inadequate reimbursement rates. Under the combined organization, the sites are part of a federally qualified health care network that will receive reimbursement that more closely approximates the cost of providing care, and benefit from substantial savings

in malpractice insurance. More than half of the Institute's patients receive Medicaid, Medicare, or are uninsured.

The New York State Health Foundation, the Primary Care Development Corporation and the Engelberg Foundation provided the bulk of the financing for the acquisition.

James R. Knickman, President and CEO of the New York State Health Foundation, which provided \$1 million to help redevelop the sites said "I am so proud that we were able to be involved in the preservation of this important healthcare facility for the Mid-Hudson community. Community healthcare that is provided in facilities like these is critical to improving the health and general well-being of all New Yorkers. Strengthening our healthcare infrastructure requires important investments like this, and we are committed to supporting projects like this to continue serving the health of New York's families."

The newly expanded Institute for Family Health now consists of 16 full time and eight part-time health centers that provide medical, dental, and counseling services to 75,000 patients in four counties, as well as both urban and rural family medicine residency programs that graduate 16 new family doctors each year. More than 40 grant-funded programs, including grants from the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health support the organization's work in providing services to special populations like those affected by HIV/AIDS and people who are homeless, as well as the Institute's award winning work on health care disparities and health information technology.

Ronda Kotelchuck, the Executive Director of the Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC), which gave \$500,000 and lent the Institute an additional \$5.8 million, said "We are very pleased to have helped make this acquisition possible. Primary health care is the key to a more effective, lower cost health care system, and this acquisition will strengthen care delivery for the Institute's 75,000 patients."

Alfred Engelberg, founder of The Engelberg Foundation, which gave \$200,000 said: "The Institute for Family Health has demonstrated that it is possible to deliver affordable quality care to working class families utilizing state of the art information technology to enhance delivery and provide patients with a true medical home. If policymakers in Albany and Washington adopted the Institute as a model for delivering primary care the crisis regarding access to quality care would be over."

Calman lauded the enormous collaboration that it took to make this transition possible, saying "It simply could not have been done without the support of these critical funding partners."

The Institute for Family Health has a 24 year history of providing health care in underserved communities. Dr. Calman is the recipient of three national service awards for his work in meeting the health care needs of the underserved, as well as two awards for leadership in health information technology and public health.

The former Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute provided medical and dental care at six locations in Ulster and Dutchess Counties. It also operated the Ulster County Healthy Start and Dutchess County Healthy Families programs, reaching out to young families, and ran a family practice residency training program at the Kingston Hospital. These programs will remain open under the Institute for Family Health's leadership, and will soon benefit from the implementation of the Epic electronic health record system, currently installed at all of the Institute's NYC practices, ensuring consistency of health care delivery and quality care across the Institute's delivery system.

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The Engelberg Foundation is a family foundation that focuses on grants to improve access to quality health care and has been a major supporter of the Institute for more than a decade.

The New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth) aims to improve the health of all New Yorkers through its threefold mission: expanding health insurance coverage to State residents who cannot afford their own coverage or whose coverage is inadequate; increasing access to high-quality health care services; and strengthening public and community health by educating New Yorkers about health care issues and empowering communities to address them. NYSHealth was established to receive the charitable funds resulting from the conversion of Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield from a nonprofit to a for-profit corporation. A State [statute](#) allocated 5% of the market value of Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield to create the Foundation. In December 2006—marking its first eight months of operation—the Foundation awarded its inaugural round of grants: \$5.7 million to 23 grantees chosen from more than 600 applicants.

Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to expanding access to timely, effective primary and preventive care by providing capital and performance improvement programs to primary care providers in underserved communities. Since 1993, PCDC's capital programs have generated over \$221 million of investment in 71 projects, which have developed approximately 510,000 feet of previously dilapidated or vacant space. PCDC invests in facilities that provide care for some 400,000 low-income New Yorkers and provide over 1,800 permanent jobs in their communities. PCDC is working with another ten organizations across the state to develop projects with a total value of over \$35 million. PCDC also has assisted over 300 primary care center teams at over 50 sites to implement changes that revolutionize how centers organize and deliver healthcare--reducing wait times and other barriers to care; increasing productivity, revenue, and patient and staff satisfaction; improving emergency preparedness; and providing patient-focused care.

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