



## Program



### Organization Description

Partners in Care Foundation (*Partners*) is an NCQA-accredited 501(c)(3) not-for-profit think-tank and proving ground with the mission to shape a new vision of health care by partnering with organizations, families and community leaders in the work of changing health care systems, changing communities and changing lives. *Partners* drives care redesign in payer and provider systems that improve quality of care, especially through linkages with community *Partners*. In addition, we provide direct services to disabled and chronically ill adults that improve health and quality of life, prevent inappropriate use of institutional care, and increase appropriate use of care.

### History

HomeMeds is a medication management evidence-based program (EBP) developed by *Partners* to enable non-nurse care managers and social workers to identify and resolve certain medication problems common among frail elders living in the community. It includes a computerized risk assessment and alert process, plus a pharmacist review and recommendation for improvement. The program was first developed and tested in the 1990s and first implemented in 2003.

Healthy Moves, an evidence-based physical activity program designed by *Partners* in 2002 to enhance health outcomes for frail, high-risk and diverse older adults receiving care management services in the home. After being tested as a pilot project in 2004, then replicated and evaluated, it was officially designated as an EBP by the federal Administration on Aging and the National Council on Aging.

Additional EBPs offered by *Partners* include the suite of Stanford's CDSME programs, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, Matter of Balance, Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program and AE Walk with Ease, Savvy Caregiver and the UCLA Memory Course.

### Partners and Funders

- Contracted with a major managed care plan to offer their California members in-person, online, and self-study toolkit EBSMPs.
- Developed and leads the Partners at Home Network (PAH Network), a collaborative comprised of 15 public and private community-based organizations (CBO) in 16 California counties.
- Received state funding from 2006-2014 to spread CDSME throughout California.
- In 2015, received \$684,000 from the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living to implement evidence-based falls prevention programs across California.
- Helped form the Los Angeles Alliance for Community Health & Aging (LAACHA), a regional collaborative comprised of more than 90 organizations aiming to promote EBPs.
- Functions as the statewide evidence-based health promotion Technical Assistance Center for the California Departments of Aging and Public Health.

## Successes

- Since 2014, we have funded 775 workshops with 10,081 participants.

## Lessons Learned

In building partnerships with health care payers and in developing a statewide Network of CBO providers, *Partners* addressed a number of challenges new to non-profit social service organizations.

- **Develop a business case statement and value proposition:** These are attractive to health care payers that demonstrated mission and ROI benefits.
- **Data sharing and collaborative planning for metrics:** The path to more contracts depends on an organization's or network's ability to demonstrate results.
- **Accreditation open doors for new contracts:** Obtaining accreditation was a key step in winning and keeping contracts.
- **Activate all executive team and board members' skills and field experience:** *Partners'* staff includes executives with experience in healthcare (e.g. hospitals, skilled nursing, hospice)
- **Payer-CBO collaboration is key to building referral volume:** We identified a crucial need to have a strong working relationship with buy-in to the benefit of the contract and dedication to CQI.
- **A strong network delivers quality work and opens doors to new managed care contracts:** Contracts with health care payers often requires us to create new systems for program delivery.

## Recognition/References

Awards:

- Healthy Moves and HomeMeds have been awarded the highest evidence level rating by the US Administration for Community Living.
- HomeMeds is included with a strong evidence rating on the US AHRQ Innovation Exchange

Newsletters/Reports:

- Yan, T., Wilber, K., Wieckowski, J., Simmons, J. (2009). Results from the Healthy Moves for Aging Well Program: Changes of the health outcomes, *Home Health Care Services Quarterly*, 28(2&3): 100-111
- Yan, T., Wilber, K., Simmons, J. (2011). Motivating high-risk older adults to exercise: Does coaching matter? *Home Health Care Services Quarterly*, 30(2): 84-85. PMID: 20182959
- Alkema, G.E., Wilber, K.H., Simmons, W.J., Enguidanos, S.M., Frey, D. (2007) Prevalence of potential medication problems among dually-eligible older adults in Medicaid waiver services. *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, 41(12): 1971-1978. PMID: 17986518
- Alkema, G.E., Wilber, K.H., Frey, D., Enguidanos, S.M., Simmons, W.J. (2008). Characteristics associated with four potential medication problems among older adults in Medicaid waiver services. *The Consultant Pharmacist*, 23(5): 396-403
- Alkema, G.E., Enguidanos, S.M., Frey, D., Trufasiu, M., Wilber, K.H., Simmons, W.J., Frey D. (2009). The role of consultant pharmacists in reducing medication problems among older adults in Medicaid waiver services. *The Consultant Pharmacist*, 24(2): 121-133



**Program Contact:** June Simmons

**Email:** jsimmons@picf.org

**Phone Number:** (818) 837-3775 ext. 101

**Website:** www.picf.org