

August 26, 2008

New Web site Showcases 24 Promising Health Care Delivery Models

Health Workforce Solutions LLC (HWS) has identified promising and replicable methods for lowering costs, improving quality and keeping patients satisfied. The Innovative Care Delivery Model Web site (www.innovativecaremodels.com), funded with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, offers hospital and nurse leaders many different ways to learn about new approaches in curbing health costs, improving quality and safety, managing chronic disease, increasing patient satisfaction and accommodating nursing shortages.

David Cherner, managing partner of HWS, said, "We selected these 24 models to showcase on this site because they are truly sustainable and replicable and are having a material impact on cost, quality and patient satisfaction in both hospital and outpatient settings." The two dozen models profiled fall into three categories of care delivery: acute care, bridging the continuum and comprehensive care. Visitors to the site will be able to read a complete description of each model, the reasons for its creation, the results of the effort, considerations for replication, challenges and lessons learned, and helpful tools. The models are from all over the country and from all types of hospital settings.

Transforming Care at the Bedside

Another national effort aligning with the FutureThink vision is a program called Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB). Several years ago, the Institute of Medicine released an alarming statistic: 98,000 hospitalized Americans die each year because of errors in their care. This number exceeds the number of fatalities due to motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer or AIDS. This figure does not even reflect the many patients who survive but sustain serious injury.

Transforming Care at the Bedside, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in conjunction with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and the American Organization of Nurse Executives, is a national program that engages leaders at all levels of the organization. There are 68 participating hospitals and five are Ohio hospitals: Bethesda North Hospital, Cincinnati; Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton; Lake Hospital System, Painesville; and Samaritan Regional Health System, Ashland.

TCAB's goals include reducing adverse events and unanticipated deaths, reducing harm from falls and improving reliability of evidence-based care. Two Ohio hospitals, Bethesda North and Samaritan Regional Health Center, reported their successes at OHA's Annual Meeting in June.

Success stories of TCAB hospitals:

- Nine TCAB units had five or more successive months without a full resuscitation.
- Three TCAB pilot units have gone six or more successive months without a moderate or severe harm from a fall.
- Average turnover rates for RNs and Advanced Practice Nurses on the TCAB pilot units dropped from 5.8% in 2003 to 3.4% in 2006.
- The percent of time the RN spent in direct patient care increased from 40% in 2004 to 50% in 2006.

For more information on TCAB, visit www.aone.org/aonetcab.

Covering Ohio's Uninsured: SCI Team's Final Report to the Governor

In an effort to help the 1.3 million Ohioans who are uninsured, Gov. Ted Strickland established two goals for the state of Ohio:

1. Reduce the number of uninsured Ohioans to 500,000 by 2011; and
2. Increase the number of small businesses that are able to offer health coverage to their workers.

To accomplish these goals, the state partnered with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Academy Health through a program called the State Coverage Initiative (SCI). This program is designed to help states develop and implement strategies to expand access to affordable health insurance coverage and thereby reduce the number of uninsured citizens. OHA's President and CEO Jim Castle is a member of the Health Coverage Advisory Committee.

After reviewing the demographics of Ohio and its residents, SCI made final recommendations, ranging from small business payment improvements to funding and distributing suggestions. For more information, visit www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov/index.aspx.

Study Examines Work Productivity, Intent to Stay in Nursing

A shortage of registered nurses (RNs) continues, with a predicted shortfall of 36% by 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The American Hospital Association reports the RN vacancy rate across the country ranges from 8.5% to 14% with vacancy rates of over 14% in medical-surgical and critical care areas (2006).

WHO? Commissioned a study (www.medscape.com/viewarticle/576952) (this site requires users to register) to determine the relationships between individual characteristics (demographic variables as well as years worked and unit type), job stress and health (perceived overall health as well as health problems and job-related injuries) and the intent to stay in nursing and work productivity among RNs employed in direct patient care in the hospital setting. The results suggested a deepening nursing shortage combined with an aging RN workforce shows the need for urgent efforts to gain more nurses as well as improve the productivity of nurses who work at the bedside. Nurse leaders must make an effort to ensure the health and safety of their nurses, reduce job stress and provide adequate staffing so quality care can be provided.

Potential Funding Partners for Health Care Workforce Development

Hospitals invest significant funding to create the workforce of the future, offer clinical space for education, provide tuition assistance, scholarships and grants for future health care workers, and donate expertise and faculty assistance to their local educational programs. Hospital leaders often search for partners to support the education of future health care professionals and to help incumbent workers achieve education and credentials needed for health occupations. The list below provides a few ideas for partnering on workforce investment.

State: The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) is committed to advancing Ohio's economic development. ODOD may offer resources to help build the supply of professionals for emerging workforce needs, including health care providers and bioscience technologies. ODOD administers the work of the Governor's Workforce Policy Board, which sets aside money for specific workforce development needs.

The Ohio Board of Regents (BOR) is committed to developing a smooth transition among Ohio's educational providers to help Ohioans have the skills and competencies to meet the needs of employers including healthcare providers. Regional skills bank programming, lead by the BOR, provides hospitals with the opportunity to advocate for efforts to ensure an adequate educational structure to prepare the workforce for the future.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) provides support for Ohioans seeking public assistance for some health and social service needs, including job training. Federal Workforce Investment Act money is administered by ODJFS workforce divisions.

Federal: Federal agencies, including the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Department of Labor, have grant funding streams. A variety of Ohio hospitals have partnered with these agencies to support very positive efforts.

Business/Business Foundations: Ohio has a solid base of large companies that support health care efforts. These businesses and/or their foundations may have an interest in supporting workforce efforts, especially if programming supports the ability of their workforce to get needed health care.

Health Insurance Companies: Health insuring companies in a variety of states have supported hospital workforce efforts and programming partnerships.

Nursing, Medical, Allied Health Schools and Colleges: Schools are natural partners since they have a significant stake and ability to impact Ohio's future healthcare workforce. In addition, schools may have staff experts who have success in writing grants and seeking funding from philanthropies and government.

Philanthropies and Foundations: A variety of national foundations, such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, have strong support of health care projects. Other national and local foundations may be good partners for investing in the health care workforce of the future and many of Ohio's regions have developed important partnerships with their community foundations. In addition, local chambers of commerce have also served as willing partners in workforce endeavors.

The FutureThink Institute is an initiative of the Ohio Hospital Association, working toward creating long-term solutions for Ohio's health care system. The FutureThink Institute takes a multidimensional approach to designing better ways to deliver care and changing the demand for health care professionals in order to achieve better results for our communities. Learn more about the FutureThink Institute, and view the FutureThink News archives at www.FutureThink.org.

Editor's note: Please share news or comments with Jean Scholz, jeans@ohonet.org, or call 614.221.7614. To be removed from this mailing list, please reply to this e-mail with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.