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Behavioral Health Facilities Shift to Value-based Payment

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – January 30, 2015 – Some of Kansas City’s highest volume behavioral health care facilities have entered into pay-for-performance contracts to improve the quality and cost of care. Organizations including [Research Psychiatric Center](#), a campus of Research Medical Center, and [Marillac](#), a psychiatric center for children and adolescents and a part of the [Cornerstones of Care](#) family of agencies, have signed provider agreements with [New Directions Behavioral Health](#)® that will reward the achievement of positive health outcomes with higher payment.

Under the arrangement, the facilities and New Directions will work together to achieve quality of care goals, such as reducing readmission rates and ensuring patients keep their post-discharge appointments.

“Positive health outcomes and high standards of care for our patients have been our focus from the beginning,” said Lisa St. Aubyn, CEO of Research Psychiatric Center. “This partnership allows us all to join efforts to improve the patient experience.”

As health care payment structures evolve to recognize providers that deliver the best patient outcomes at the lowest possible cost, consumers, payers and providers benefit. “When you reward value of care versus volume of care, you can build the foundation to improve patient well-being and drive down health care spending,” said Darryl Donlin, Vice President of New Directions.

“Marillac is proud to partner with New Directions Behavioral Health to promote improved health outcomes and provide quality resources for the children and families we serve,” said Lynn Lemke, CEO. “This new agreement enhances collaboration between the consumer, provider and payer.”

Value-based reimbursements, including shared-risk arrangements, and bundled payments, as well as pay-for-performance incentives, are gaining traction for payers and providers on the medical side, but are uncommon in behavioral health care.

“These behavioral health provider organizations are at the forefront of providing value-based care, and we are excited to begin a new stage in our relationship. By correlating payment with quality of care, all stakeholders benefit,” said Donlin.

One of the fastest growing behavioral health care companies in the nation, New Directions helps people live healthy, balanced lives by providing behavioral health care services, Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), organizational consulting and health coaching programs. For more information, visit ndbh.com.

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