

Eight Michigan Health Care Organizations Form Value-Driven Coalition

"Value Health Partners is a collaborative initiative to leverage the strengths of eight different organizations that each have unique services and patient populations," said **Joseph Wasserman**, chairman of the board of directors for Value Health Partners and President & CEO of Lakeland HealthCare in St. Joseph.

Value Health Partners will improve value through:

- clinical quality and best practices
- community health improvement programs to address health disparities for at-risk populations
- advocacy to represent a variety of Michigan communities on policy issues

"Through a coordinated effort, we believe we can provide greater value to our patients and families, and the communities we serve. There is much we can accomplish given our shared expertise and resources as well as the wealth of experience each organization has acquired over the years," said **Wasserman**.

Through collaboration and mutual accountability, Value Health Partners plans to improve access and quality care for patients, better control costs, and optimize the performance of member organizations by sharing best practices and clinical quality metrics. Value Health Partners will also represent the concerns of a broad cross-section of communities in addressing Michigan and federal government policy and funding issues.

"As health care changes, being part of this collaboration will help our organizations develop and implement a standard of care that better serves our patients and community,"

said **Richard C. Breon**, vice chair for Value Health Partners Board of Directors, and president & CEO, Spectrum Health.

"There are many avenues to pursue together. We will focus first on those areas that offer significant opportunities," said Wasserman. "For example, in terms of community health improvement, we will evaluate community health data and current programs to help each organization determine what will have the greatest impact and which programs can be replicated in other communities. Rigorous measures and proven programs will be used. By building a database across all of our communities, we can begin to evaluate trends and health outcomes of a much larger population for disease management of conditions such as diabetes."

Value Health Partners CEOs will meet quarterly to discuss collaborative efforts. **Mary Kay Kempker-VanDriel**, formerly director of Spectrum Health's Healthier Communities department, is serving as president of Value Health Partners. She brings 30 years of experience in collaborative health care efforts and community health improvement.

"Value Health Partners represents an opportunity for collaboration at its best – leveraging resources to achieve common goals," Van-Driel said. "In my experience, that's the most effective way to effect real change and have impact in communities."



Value Health Partners includes:

- Bronson Healthcare Group, Kalamazoo
- Covenant HealthCare, Saginaw
- Foote Health System, Jackson
- Lakeland HealthCare, St. Joseph
- Munson Healthcare, Traverse City
- Northern Michigan Regional Hospital, Petoskey
- Sparrow Health System, Lansing
- Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids