

## Illinois Primary Care Innovations Bring Better Health, Lower Costs

*Patient-Centered Care Transforming Community Health*

**Chicago, Illinois, May 19, 2015** – Family Medicine for America's Health, a partnership of the eight leading family medicine organizations in the United States, today made its third campaign city tour stop in Illinois to showcase primary care innovations taking place in the state. The event gathered Illinois' health care leaders for a panel discussion on the role of primary care in our nation's health system. Moderated by author, documentary filmmaker and journalist, T.R. Reid, the event at MATTER featured local success stories of primary care delivering on the Triple Aim of better health and better quality at a lower cost.

"Primary care leaders in Illinois are changing the way we approach payment models and care delivery – in home, clinic and community settings," said **Glen Stream, MD**, President and Board Chair, **Family Medicine for America's Health**. "Our goal in showcasing this innovation is to strengthen the foundation of primary care in Illinois and around the country and to ensure that everyone has access to continuous, comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate care."

Home to eight medical schools across 11 campuses, Illinois is helping shape the future of health care in America. There is increased focus throughout the state on prevention and wellness, coordinated care, and making health care affordable and accessible to all. Some of the case studies featured at today's event included:

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois:** Large state-based health plan achieving cost savings and better health outcomes through value-based care models.
- **Home Centered Care Institute:** A practice utilizing home visits to improve health outcomes and reduce costs for the aging and patients with complex medical conditions.
- **Erie Family Health Center:** A teaching health center residency program training physicians for the opportunities and challenges of caring for medically underserved communities.
- **University of Chicago:** A partnership between residents and high school students on Chicago's South Side that is educating students about social determinants of health and teaching them critical skills needed in the future health workforce.
- **Chicago Board of Health:** An initiative by the city of Chicago, which teamed up with the family medicine community to curb tobacco use. This effort decreased smoking among high school students by 20 percent in just two years and reduced smoking rates to an all-time low.
- **VITAS Innovative Hospice Care:** A primary care doctor who is transforming the end of life experience, providing quality care while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations.
- **Southern Illinois University (SIU):** Programs led by SIU's School of Medicine that are integrating mental health into primary care and transforming youth mental health services.
- **Loyola University Chicago:** A program that is improving patient health outcomes by providing comprehensive care to patients while helping educate nursing, medical, dietary and social work students to work on coordinated care teams.

Speakers included:

- **Glen Stream**, MD, President and Board Chair, Family Medicine for America's Health
- **Janet Albers**, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
- **Thomas Cornwell**, MD, Chairman and Chief Medical Officer, Home Centered Care Institute
- **Mary D'Anza**, Outpatient and Community Health Dietitian, Loyola University Chicago and Loyola University Medical Center
- **Deborah L. Edberg**, MD, Assistant Professor, Clinical Family and Community Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- **Opella Ernest**, MD, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois
- **Kohar Jones**, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor and Family Physician, University of Chicago Department of Family Medicine
- **Carolyn Lopez**, MD, President, Chicago Board of Health
- **Javette Orgain**, MD, Team Physician, Vitas Innovative Hospice Care; Chair, Illinois State Board of Health

Today's event is part of **Health is Primary**, Family Medicine for America's Health's multi-year national campaign to demonstrate the value of primary care. The campaign is traveling to cities across the country to raise awareness about the need for a strong primary care-based health care system. The **Health is Primary** city tour began in Seattle in March, continued to Raleigh in April and will stop in Denver and Detroit in October.

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#### **About Family Medicine for America's Health**

Family Medicine for America's Health, the organization behind **Health is Primary**, is a new collaboration between the nation's eight leading family medicine organizations to drive continued improvement of the U.S. health care system and demonstrate the value of true primary care. We represent:

- American Academy of Family Physicians;
- American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation;
- American Board of Family Medicine;
- American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians;
- Association of Departments of Family Medicine;
- Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
- North American Primary Care Research Group; and
- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.

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