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ALAMEDA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH LAUNCHES HEALTH HOMES PROGRAM

The program aims to coordinate care for physical health, behavioral health, and social services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with complex needs and empower them to play an active role in their own care.

Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) officially launched the Health Homes Program this month as part of their commitment to improve the quality of life of their members. The federally-funded Health Homes Program, authorized through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), is designed to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries with complex medical needs and multiple chronic conditions – such as asthma, diabetes, or heart failure – that may benefit from member-centered and team-based care coordination. The program provides six core services, including: comprehensive care management, care coordination (physical health, behavioral health and community-based long-term services and supports), health promotion, comprehensive transitional care, individual and family support, and lastly, referrals to community and social support services, including housing.

As part of their efforts to prepare for the program launch, the Alliance had previously introduced a self-funded health homes pilot at the start of 2017. The \$1.5 million investment was designed to serve Alliance members who struggle with multiple chronic conditions and would benefit from enhanced care management and coordination. Beginning this July, the Alliance transitioned from the self-funded pilot into the federally-funded Health Homes Program with a primary focus on participants who struggle with housing instability, those experiencing homelessness, and individuals in need of palliative care.

“The Alliance’s pilot has been instrumental in helping us understand the complexity of our member’s health outcomes and allowed us to create a stronger system of care,” said Alliance Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Steve O’Brien. “As our traditional health care system continues to evolve towards treating both the physical health and supporting individuals in addressing negative social factors that impact their lives,

we anticipate that the Health Homes Program will further our ability to improve the health of our members.”

The Alliance has expanded both their internal case management infrastructure and partnerships with community-based care management entities. These care teams can consist of nurse case managers, behavioral health managers, care coordinators, community health workers, and local system navigators. Their primary role is to create plans with Alliance members to meet their physical, mental health and social service needs, as well as to help them better understand and manage their health conditions. Today, the Alliance has contracts with dozens of organizations at nearly 30 sites throughout Alameda County that are providing care coordination to hundreds of Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

“The Health Homes Program started with a vision to establish linkages between the Alameda County Care Connect Program, administered by the county’s Health Care Services Agency, and to integrate a variety of health services to improve our member’s experience and quality of life,” said Alliance Chief Executive Officer, Scott Coffin. “The Alliance has been transforming for the past 4 years into a whole person care organization, and we stand committed to investing in community-based services that fully integrate physical health, mental health, substance use, housing, and other types of social determinants of health. Our network of more than 7,000 physicians and caregivers are better aligned to deliver coordinated services, and advances the Alliance’s mission to improve the quality of life for every resident in the county.”

The Alliance is currently working on its outreach to members who may qualify for the Health Homes Program, and community providers who may identify and refer individuals. For more information on the Health Homes Program or to learn more about the Alliance, please visit www.alamedaalliance.org.

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About Alameda Alliance for Health

Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) is a local, public, not-for-profit managed care health plan committed to making high quality health care services accessible and affordable to Alameda County residents. Established in 1996, the Alliance was created by and for Alameda County residents. The Alliance Board of Governors, leadership, staff, and provider network reflect the county’s cultural and

linguistic diversity. The Alliance provides health care coverage to nearly 260,000 low-income children and adults through National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accredited Medi-Cal and Alliance Group Care programs.