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Boston Medical Center Health System Partners with MassHealth on Four New Accountable Care Organizations to Improve Health Outcomes for Members

WellSense Health Plan to become the largest Medicaid health plan in the state, covering more than 500,000 MassHealth members in eight ACO partnerships across Massachusetts

BOSTON – WellSense Health Plan, part of Boston Medical Center Health System, has been selected by the Baker-Polito Administration to expand its participation in the Accountable Care Organization program, doubling the number of its MassHealth ACO partnerships from four to eight, while improving care and coordination for members in its network.

After enrollment begins in April, WellSense Health Plan will cover more than 500,000 lives in Massachusetts, supporting the care of nearly 40% of MassHealth ACO adult and child members across the state. The selection by the Baker-Polito Administration makes WellSense the largest partner in the state in caring for a Medicaid ACO population, as well as the largest Medicaid plan overall.

The Baker-Polito Administration selected a total of 17 health care organizations across the state, including eight partnerships with WellSense Health Plan, for the re-procurement, which goes into effect April 1, 2023. MassHealth ACOs are integrated networks of physicians, hospitals and other community-based health care providers that are accountable for the quality, cost and member experience of care for 1.2 million MassHealth members

“This is a transformational milestone for WellSense and our entire health system,” said Alastair Bell, MD, the Chief Operating Officer of BMC Health System. “This significantly expands our mission, and places WellSense, BMC Health System and our eight partner ACOs at the heart of payment and delivery of high-quality care to low-income populations in Massachusetts.”

With state approval, WellSense has renewed ACO agreements with four partners that were initially approved for five-year contracts beginning in March 2018: Boston Accountable Care Organization, which includes Boston Medical Center and mission aligned hospitals and health centers across Massachusetts, including new partners



Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center and Cape Cod Healthcare; Signature Healthcare Corporation in the Brockton area; Southcoast Health in New Bedford, Fall River and Wareham; and Mercy Health ACO (Trinity Health of New England system) in the Springfield area.

The four new ACO partnerships include:

- Beth Israel Lahey Health Performance Network
- Boston Children’s Health ACO
- East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- Tufts Medicine and Lowell Community Health Center with WellSense

“Working with MassHealth and our eight ACO partners, we will improve health outcomes by continuing to provide access to high-quality care and helping adults and children live their healthiest lives,” said Heather Thiltgen, President of WellSense Health Plan. “Together, we will tackle the most difficult challenges for our members and continually push for innovation in the Medicaid program.”

“Serving the Medicaid population is central to our commitment to health equity and improving the health of the people and communities we serve,” said Beth Roberts, President of Beth Israel Lahey Health Performance Network. “We are pleased to partner with WellSense, given their deep experience with Medicaid population health management and our shared commitment for collaborating on behalf of and advocating for our patients.”

“Boston Children’s Hospital is thrilled to enter into an ACO relationship with WellSense beginning April 1, 2023,” said Dr. Michael A. Lee, Executive Director and Medical Director, Department of Accountable Care and Clinical Integration. “Boston Children’s and Boston Medical Center already share many clinical services and a combined teaching program for residents in Pediatrics, so working together on this ACO will not only enable us to sustain and continually improve the care we already provide, but will strengthen our ability to deliver care in the community and connect to agencies that support the welfare of children, young adults and parents.”

“Partnering with WellSense Health Plan to introduce this ACO brings tremendous value to our patients and supports our mission of providing high-quality, integrated care to



those we serve,” said Greg Wilmot, President and CEO of East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. “As part of our longstanding commitment to advancing health equity, I am excited by this opportunity for East Boston Neighborhood Health Center to provide even greater care and improve clinical outcomes for our patients.”

“We are pleased to join this partnership, which will drive equitable, increased access to wellness and health care for our most vulnerable populations as we continue on our journey to transform the delivery of care for all,” said Emily Young, President of the Tufts Medicine Integrated Network.

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About Boston Medical Center Health System

Boston Medical Center Health System provides world class care to all, with an emphasis on health equity, clinical and research excellence, and the treatment of complex conditions through a value based, coordinated continuum of care. BMC Health System has five major entities serving patients and health plan members in Massachusetts and New Hampshire: Boston Medical Center, WellSense Health Plan, Boston University Medical Group, Boston HealthNet, and Boston Accountable Care Organization.

About WellSense Health Plan

WellSense Health Plan is a nonprofit health insurance company serving more than 440,000 members across Massachusetts and New Hampshire through Medicare, Individual and Family, and Medicaid plans. Founded 25 years ago, WellSense provides high-quality health plans and services that work for our members, no matter their circumstances.

About Beth Israel Lahey Health Performance Network

The Beth Israel Lahey Health Performance Network (BILHPN) is a clinically integrated network of physicians, clinicians and hospitals committed to improving population health by providing high-quality, cost-effective health care to the patients and communities it serves. The BILHPN network provides care for patients and their families through local initiatives and programs, providing access to treatments that meet their individual needs. The Beth Israel Lahey Health Performance Network is a part of Beth Israel Lahey Health, an integrated health system that brings together academic medical centers and teaching hospitals, community and specialty hospitals, more than 4,800 physicians and 36,000 employees in a shared mission to expand access to great care and advance the science and practice of medicine through groundbreaking research and education.



About Boston Children's Hospital

Boston Children's Hospital is ranked the number one pediatric hospital in the nation by U.S. News and World Report. Boston Children's provides the majority of specialty and inpatient care to children and young adults on Medicaid in Massachusetts. The affiliated ACO, Boston Children's Health ACO also includes the primary care practices at Boston Children's, Martha Elliot Health Center and practices across the Commonwealth in the Pediatric Physicians Organization at Children's.

About East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC) is one of the nation's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the largest community health center in Massachusetts, serving over 100,000 patients, and recognized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as a Health Center Quality Leader. For more than 50 years, EBNHC has offered access to comprehensive care for the underserved populations of Chelsea, Revere, East Boston, Winthrop, Everett and Boston's South End. East Boston Neighborhood Health Center is dedicated to promoting and sustaining healthy communities, families, and individuals by providing accessible, person-centered, compassionate, and high-quality health care services to all who live and work in our service area, regardless of ability to pay, while upholding diversity, equity, and inclusion at the core of all we do. www.ebnhc.org

About Tufts Medicine and Lowell Community Health Center

Tufts Medicine is a leading integrated health system bringing together the best of academic and community healthcare to deliver exceptional, connected and accessible care experiences to consumers across Massachusetts. Comprised of Tufts Medical Center, Lowell General Hospital, MelroseWakefield Hospital, Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford, an expansive home care network and a large integrated physician network, Tufts Medicine has more than 15,000 dedicated care team members providing more than 1.5 million patient experiences per year. The health system is the principal teaching affiliate for Tufts University School of Medicine. Tufts Medicine came together in 2014 to leverage the experience of its member organizations and integrate their missions to together transform the ways that consumers engage with and experience their care.

Lowell Community Health Center began in 1970 to make sure that everyone in Greater Lowell has access to quality, compassionate, and culturally responsive health care, regardless of ability to pay. In continuing to honor the values of equity and inclusion that the health center was founded on, Lowell Community Health Center recognizes



racism as a public health crisis and is committed to acknowledging and eliminating racism - in all its forms. Looking to the future, the health center continues to honor the transformative power of kindness and understanding so that everyone in the Lowell community receives exactly the care that they need and deserve.

