Overview

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

In 1996, a group of health care professionals, concerned that the shortage of primary health care in the District of Columbia was contributing to increasingly poor health outcomes for the city's residents, formed the District of Columbia Primary Care Association (DCPCA). Almost 20 years later, our membership includes 15 community health centers, with nearly 50 health care delivery sites that serve approximately 200,000 District residents each year. DCPCA's mission is to facilitate the development and sustainability of an effective, integrated health care system in the District of Columbia that guarantees access to primary health care and eliminates disparities in health outcomes.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

DCPCA's goals include:

- Implementing health information technology and quality improvement strategies to support optimal healthcare delivery and health outcomes
- Strengthening access to health care services
- Expanding coverage for the uninsured and those who are denied access to needed care, and
- Building and extending the primary care workforce to provide culturally-appropriate, high quality care to underserved populations in our community

PROGRAMS

To address the challenges of our healthcare system and improve health outcomes for our community, DCPCA takes a strategic, holistic approach to effect system change in healthcare. We accomplish this through five core programs:

- **Quality Improvement** – The core of our work as a primary care association, our Quality Improvement Program provides technical assistance, training and support to our 15 member health centers to help them improve operations, strengthening their capacity to provide high quality care.
- **Health Information Technology** – DCPCA hosts and maintains electronic health records for seven community health center providers and provides training and technical support for health center staff in the effective use of the technology. Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we function as the District's Regional Extension Center (REC), known as *eHealthDC*, to provide Meaningful Use outreach and education, expertise and technical assistance and other critical services to support effective electronic health record adoption among participating District primary care providers. We also provide technology management support for several population health data acquisition and analysis efforts involving our health centers, the District's Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and the DC Department of Health.
- **Medical Homes DC** – This is DCPCA's 10-year initiative to improve access to high quality primary care in medically underserved neighborhoods by building, renovating or expanding the infrastructure of the District's safety net health centers. We have completed 11 of the 12 projects, and will complete the last one in 2014.
- **Community Health Access** – This program develops frontline strategies to improve community health capacity and promote care-seeking behavior and healthy lifestyles through community engagement, workforce development and coordination of long-term volunteers through AmeriCorps' Community HealthCorps program.
- **Policy and Advocacy** – Our efforts work to strengthen coverage, enhance reimbursement for public services and promote sustainability of the District's safety net system. Currently, we are focused on pay reform. DCPCA is at the center of efforts with the DC government, managed care organizations, and community health centers to build a pay system that aligns incentives with positive patient outcomes and maximizes health center sustainability.

For more information about DCPCA, visit www.dcpca.org.