



InTouch

Published by the Greater Flint (Michigan) Health Coalition

GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION NAMES KIRK SMITH PRESIDENT & CEO

Kirk D. Smith has been appointed President & CEO of the Greater Flint Health Coalition (GFHC) by its Board of Directors. Mr. Smith's selection was announced on June 21st by Michigan State Senator Deborah Cherry, Chair of the GFHC Board. Mr. Smith has served as Interim Chief Executive Officer of the GFHC since January, 2010.

"Over the past six months while Kirk has served as Interim CEO, the Greater Flint Health Coalition Board has thoroughly evaluated his capabilities and leadership skills," said Senator Cherry. "During that time, he has demonstrated significant knowledge of the issues facing the community relative to our citizen's health status and our health care system's challenges as it seeks to provide quality and cost effective care at the local level. Combined with his spirit and vision for getting diverse healthcare and community partners to work together, the Board is pleased to have Kirk as our President & CEO."

Prior to being named Interim CEO of the Greater Flint Health Coalition this past January, Mr. Smith served as its Vice President & Chief Operating Officer with a broad range of executive and programmatic responsibilities since joining the organization in 2005.

"I greatly appreciate the Board's appointment of me as the Greater Flint Health Coalition's President & CEO," Smith said. "The Health Coalition is a unique organization not just in Michigan, but nationally, and it is a true honor to work alongside such a dynamic group of community leaders. As Genesee County and the State as a whole encounter some of our most challenging times, the collaborative efforts of our local healthcare providers, insurers, government, employers, community organizations, and citizens through the Health Coalition have the opportunity to make a number of positive, necessary changes to help our community become healthier."

Smith is a native of Flint, Michigan. He earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology from The University of Michigan and master's degree in Health Service Administration from The University of Michigan School of Public Health.

GFHC DIABETES GROUP VISIT PROJECT AWARDED \$45,000 FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER FLINT

The Arthur L. Tuuri Health Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint has awarded the Greater Flint Health Coalition's (GFHC) Diabetes Group Visit Project with a \$45,000 grant. The GFHC's Diabetes Group Visit Project, which began in 2008, aims to reduce diabetes morbidity and improve quality of life for diabetic patients in Genesee County through the implementation

of diabetes group visits. This innovative clinical care model has demonstrated effectiveness with improved patient outcomes, improved patient and physician satisfaction, and reduced healthcare costs.

Diabetes group visits are a shared medical appointment that allows one physician to engage approximately seven to ten patients in a two hour session, providing each patient extended time with the physician and facilitating group discussion around improving patient management of diabetes. Discussion topics include healthy behaviors, diet and nutrition, exercise, medication, and foot care as each patient shares "best practices" in addressing with various aspects of diabetes care and management. Specialists such as diabetes educators, nutritionists, and behaviorists are also engaged in each group visit.

The GFHC's Diabetes Group Visit Project Workgroup collaboratively guides the efforts of the project through representation from McLaren Regional Medical Center, Genesys Health System, Hurley Medical Center, the Genesee County Medical Society, Genesee Health Plan, HealthPlus of Michigan, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, and the United Auto Workers. Dr. Paul Dake, McLaren Family Practice Residency Program Site Director, serves as Chair of the effort.

If you are a physician interested in learning more about diabetes group visits, please consider the upcoming dinner meeting on September 15, 2010 designed to assist you in implementing this highly effective model of care.

CALL TO PHYSICIANS: A SPECIAL DINNER MEETING TO DISCUSS IMPROVED EFFICIENCY, OUTCOMES, AND REIMBURSEMENTS THROUGH DIABETES GROUP VISITS!

The Greater Flint Health Coalition and the Genesee County Medical Society invite you to learn how Diabetes Group Visits can be conducted in physician practices leading to improved patient outcomes, improved practice efficiency, and better reimbursements.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

*Dinner will be Served
Location is To Be Determined*

**To register, please contact the Coalition at
(810) 232-2228 or via email at gfhc@flint.org.**

GFHC HEALTH CARE IMPACT STUDY – MOVING FOCUS FROM ASSESSMENT TO ACTION

The GFHC's Health Care Impact Study, undertaken as an outgrowth of the City of Flint Auto Task Force, was completed in April, 2010. It includes a comprehensive baseline assessment of the community's health and nine recommended strategies for intervention for the community to move to action. Since its completion, the GFHC has focused on the Study's original intention and purpose: a coordinated request for federal aid to the White House Council on Automotive Communities and Workers in order to improve the health of the community through strategic interventions.

To streamline the request for federal aid, the GFHC Board of Directors prioritized three strategies as most critical to immediately improve the health of the community:

- Expanding Hamilton Community Health Network to establish a Specialty Care Site while enhancing primary, dental, vision, and pharmacy care for the medically underserved;
- The development of a Community Health Education Center to improve resident education on how to access available healthcare services as well as implement collaborative disease prevention, wellness, and public health education programs;
- Health care provider recruitment and retention to increase the supply and capacity of physicians, residents, academic health centers, National Health Service Corps scholars, and nurse-managed health clinics.

With support from the GFHC Board, the completed study and a coordinated request for federal support was submitted to the White House Council on Automotive Communities and Workers through a face-to-face meeting of Kirk Smith, GFHC President & CEO, City of Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, and Ed Montgomery, Ph.D., former Director of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers this past May.

As a follow-up to this meeting and the request for federal aid, the GFHC is currently in direct communication with representatives from various federal agencies including the

U.S. Department of Labor and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to identify opportunities to support the Study's prioritized strategies for intervention. Stay tuned for future editions of *In Touch* for updates on the progression and next steps of the Health Care Impact Study. To request a copy of the Executive Summary for the Study please contact the GFHC at gfhc@flint.org.

CHILDREN'S ORAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

The GFHC, which has focused on improving children's oral health since 2005, recently initiated a Billboard Campaign throughout Genesee County in an effort to educate parents about the importance of good oral health in children. This campaign, which placed educational billboards throughout Genesee County in both English and Spanish, highlights basic strategies to improve oral health in infants and children up to age five. Pictures of the billboards can be found on the GFHC website, <http://www.gfhc.org>.

In addition to the Billboard Campaign the GFHC's "Baby Those Baby Tooth Health Wheels" remain available as a resource to educate providers, parents, and caregivers on the appropriate dental care for infants and children. Through the GFHC's Children's Oral Health Task Force over 54,000 oral health wheels have been distributed to individuals and organizations in Genesee County and across the country. These health wheels are available free of charge to Genesee County organizations, providers, and residents and are available at cost to outside Genesee County organizations, providers, and residents. An online order form is available at <http://www.gfhc.org>.

GFHC WEBSITE – CHECK IT OUT!

In addition to the *In Touch* quarterly newsletter, the GFHC's website is updated weekly to inform you of information, news, and press releases relative to projects and activities.

Please visit www.gfhc.org to explore all the resources and information, which are just a few clicks away.



519 South Saginaw Street, Suite 306

Flint, Michigan 48502-1802

Web site: www.gfhc.org

Telephone: (810) 232-2228

Fax: (810) 232-3332

E-mail: gfhc@flint.org

