

Mission Health, MAHEC, Independent Physician Groups and Other Providers Launch Mission Health Partners – Developing Western North Carolina’s First Clinically Integrated Network

June 12, 2014 By Ferriss Roberts

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — (June 11, 2014) — Mission Health, MAHEC and a group of independent physicians have spearheaded the development of a new entity: Mission Health Partners (MHP). MHP is a patient-centric and physician-governed network of clinicians, hospitals and other providers working collaboratively in an evidence-based manner to improve patient care, reduce costs, improve patient experience and ultimately drive positive changes in the health of the residents of western North Carolina.

“We all know that our nation’s healthcare system is not achieving our collective goals: far too often, care is difficult to access, too costly, too provider-centric and focused only on disease,” said Ronald A. Paulus, MD, President and CEO of Mission Health. “Mission is committed to working collaboratively with patients, physicians and other providers to ensure that the residents of western North Carolina have access to the most advanced, comprehensive, high-quality and affordable care possible. The development of Mission Health Partners is a key milestone in this work and vital to fulfilling this important commitment to our region.”

“The launch of Mission Health Partners represents a milestone in collaboration and partnership between independent physician practices, Mission Health, MAHEC and other providers,” said R. Brian Moore, MD, North Buncombe County Family Medicine, P.A., and Chair, MHP Executive Committee. “This formation effort has been physician-led since the beginning and MHP will be physician-governed going forward, representing a new and incredibly exciting collaboration for the region.”

“Mission Health Partners is a groundbreaking organization that creates new opportunities for everyone in western North Carolina,” said Jeff Heck, MD, President and CEO of MAHEC. “To date, our efforts have been focused on establishing a core, primary care driven approach to care redesign and enhancement. We look forward to expanding this work in partnership with our specialist colleagues to ensure that every MHP patient receives the safest, most evidence-based, patient-centered and affordable care available.”

Over time, clinically integrated networks benefit patients by utilizing people, processes and technology to more effectively coordinate care. Clinical integration will further ensure that the right care is delivered at the right time and in the right place as well as:

- Improve patient access, outcomes and satisfaction
- Focus on lifestyle changes, preventive health and wellness, in addition to disease
- Provide enhanced management of patients with complex diseases and chronic illness
- Provide a vehicle for at-risk population management
- Reduce wasted or duplicative services
- Improve communication with and amongst providers

“We are excited to be a part of Mission Health Partners as it works to improve the health of the residents of western North Carolina,” said Robert Fields, MD, My Care Plus Biltmore Park, and Chair, MHP Quality Committee. “By working together, we will be able to provide more collaborative and coordinated care for patients – particularly at-risk populations.”

Dr. Fields is one of the first primary care physicians to join the network. Founding members include:

- Mission Medical Associates
- MAHEC
- Independent physician groups including:
 - o The Family Health Centers
 - o Carolina Internal Medicine
 - o Asheville Internal Medicine
 - o Asheville Pediatric Associates
 - o Our Family Doctor
 - o North Buncombe Family Medicine, P.A.
 - o Asheville Medicine & Pediatrics

This network will continue to grow in order to provide the community with increased access to high-quality, affordable and patient-focused care from a variety of primary and specialty care physicians.

[About Mission Health Partners](#)

Mission Health Partners is a clinically integrated network serving the community of western North Carolina. Mission Health Partners will provide the region with quality healthcare that improves the health of its communities, enhances the patient experience, improves quality and coordinates care across providers.