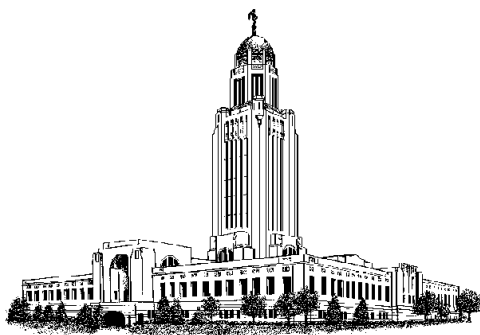


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Healthier, Happier Nebraskans is the Goal of an Agreement between Insurance Companies and Primary Care Physicians

An agreement brokered by Senators Mike Gloor, District 35, and John Wightman, District 36, rests on the premise that a healthy Nebraskan requires less costly health care. Through a concept called Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Nebraska physicians and insurance companies are betting on it, too, with an agreement starting in January 2014.

This agreement will be announced by the stakeholder group and Senators who crafted it at a press conference and document signing on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 11 a.m. in Room 1524 of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska.

“The triple aim of Patient Centered Medical Home is to provide health care that results in happier, healthier patients by providing more efficient and better coordinated, more holistic care. Doing so is proving to save money in program after program across the United States,” reports Senator Mike Gloor at the announcement of the Nebraska PCMH Agreement.

Senator Gloor was successful at passing a bill in 2009 to create a Medicaid Pilot Program using Patient Centered Medical Home in two clinics in Lexington and Kearney. Medicaid Managed Care contracts now also contain a requirement to help create PCMH clinics in rural areas.

In 2012 Senator Wightman introduced a bill to mandate PCMH payments from commercial insurance companies to physicians. That bill prompted a year long process to create

language to define and recognize Patient Centered Medical Home in Nebraska and to provide agreed upon expectations for physicians and commercial insurance companies.

“This type of reform is best accomplished with a private and public collaboration,” Senator Wightman explains. “Medicaid and Medicare are moving this direction so this reform is already beginning to be paid for with public funds. In order for Patient Centered Medical Home to flourish in Nebraska we need the private side of insurance to provide opportunities as well. Similar to a rowing team, if all the team members work together, we reach the goal much faster.”

Governor Dave Heineman is also expected to attend.

Signers of this agreement will include: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, Coventry Health Care of Nebraska, Arbor Health Plan, Co-opportunity Health, UnitedHealthcare, Nebraska Medical Association, Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians, Nebraska Academy of Pediatrics, and Senators Gloor and Wightman.