

HEALTH SERVICES REFORM UPDATE

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Issue 001

A Plan for Improvement

With the proposed restructuring of DC General Hospital, many questions have been raised about the future of health care delivery in the District of Columbia and regarding the fate of DC General Hospital.

DC General Hospital will not close and virtually all that receive services there will continue to do so. *In addition*, an integrated, comprehensive neighborhood-based primary and preventive care network will be made available to our residents to help them receive medical care *before* their health status becomes critical or chronic.

It is clear that change is needed. The current health care delivery system is not using millions of dollars each year in available resources wisely. The way we have provided health services in the past has not reduced preventable illnesses. Our plan for improvement will ensure that the best services are provided.

Change can be frightening, and change can seem painful, but change is necessary if we are to help our most vulnerable residents receive the level of health care and services they so richly deserve.

There is an organized, well thought out transition plan in place to ease the changes that must be made. The plan calls for services to continue at DC General Hospital and for services to be enhanced at Greater Southeast Community Hospital. We fully intend to provide a broad range of emergency, primary and critical care services to our neighbors east of the Anacostia.

We are immediately offering HMO services to residents who currently have no health care insurance. As we integrate our residents into this system, we expect to target preventive health and early detection to improve their health and quality of life.

Call (202) 442-9195 for more information.