



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

David S. Keller, Commissioner
Commissioners' Office
14 North Main Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-261-3815
dskeller@franklincountypa.gov

Franklin and Fulton Counties Rated Best at Managing Medicaid Services

February 7, 2017 - CHAMBERSBURG, PA – Franklin and Fulton Counties have been rated best in Pennsylvania for managing Medicaid services and access quality for mental health and substance abuse treatment. Pennsylvania recently recognized the HealthChoices Program in Franklin and Fulton Counties as being 1st overall among the 34 Behavioral HealthChoices organizations in the Commonwealth.

“We’ve been consistently in the top 10, but this is the first time we’ve been #1,” said Commissioner and Board Chairman Dave Keller. Franklin and Fulton County Commissioners partnered in 2006 to create Tuscarora Managed Care Alliance (TMCA), the oversight entity for the Behavioral HealthChoices Program in both counties. The TMCA board of directors includes all three commissioners from Franklin County and two commissioners from Fulton County.

TMCA recently received the statewide standings in performance measures data that are developed and maintained by the Commonwealth. The data relates to follow-up after hospitalization at 7 and 30 day intervals, and follow-up intervals and re-admission rates within 30 days to inpatient behavioral health treatment.

Inpatient care and hospitalization are the most expensive levels of care in behavioral health. “By providing better services, we’re helping to reduce the need for re-admissions for inpatient care and hospitalization, which is good for the person receiving the care and has the added benefit of saving taxpayer dollars,” said Commissioner Bob Thomas.

TMCA was formed to improve behavioral health services that are paid for by Medicaid in Franklin and Fulton Counties and to slow down the rising cost of these services. “This partnership between Franklin and Fulton Counties is one of the smallest of its kind in Pennsylvania in terms of overall budget, but we’re producing some big results,” said Commissioner Bob Ziobrowski.

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For additional information on Franklin County visit www.franklincountypa.gov.

Melissa Reisinger, Executive Director of TMCA, credits the recent increase in the performance to the talented staff at all levels within the behavioral health system and their willingness to work collaboratively toward the common goal of wellness.

The behavioral health system in Franklin and Fulton Counties includes providers of outpatient and inpatient behavioral health treatment as well as community case management providers. PerformCare, the contracted Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization for the two counties, also played a pivotal role in the efforts that increased timeliness of follow-up care and decreased behavioral health re-admissions to hospitalization in the last 3 years.

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