

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PA Health & Wellness and Liberty Resources Home Choices Build In-Home Caregiver Backup Program**

*Partnership aimed at building registry of quality in-home direct care providers in Philadelphia*

**CAMP HILL (July 6, 2020)** – As part of its ongoing effort to transform the health of the community, PA Health & Wellness (PHW) along with its parent company Centene, today announced the launch of pilot program to recruit, train and deploy an emergency in-home direct care workforce for participants across Philadelphia. This pilot program is being conducted in partnership with the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), and Liberty Resources Home Choices of Philadelphia. Liberty Resources Home Choices is one of the largest non-medical home care agencies within Philadelphia, currently serving more than 500 consumers.

Since the onset of the COVID-19, Centene and PHW have provided ongoing support and solutions for communities facing challenges caused by the pandemic. In addition to providing personal protective equipment and assisting local community food banks and pantries, PHW is partnering with various organizations to support efforts that address access to quality healthcare and direct care workforce shortages across Pennsylvania. Today's announcement is a continuation of those efforts.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us dramatically," said Justin Davis, CEO, and Plan President of PA Health & Wellness. "This crisis has had a particularly significant impact on those in need of in-home care. This pilot will focus additional resources to Philadelphians with disabilities and strengthen the framework for quality home care in the future."

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need to ensure that older residents and community members with disabilities have access to safe, quality care not only during times of crisis, but also for those times when temporary circumstances prevent their regular caregiver from providing needed services. This pilot program looks to address that gap by recruiting, training, and deploying an emergency in-home care workforce for participants who require non-medical personal attendant services and direct service professionals.

"Liberty Resources Home Choices has been advocating for people with disabilities to have quality access to home care services in a setting of their choice," said Fermina Maddox, Executive Director. "The COVID-19 pandemic has brought much-needed attention to the dangers associated with residing in nursing facilities. We are pleased to participate in this pilot and contribute to creating meaningful solutions to ensure that consumers who require emergency back-up services have the support they need to safely remain in the community."

To recruit the workforce for this program, Liberty Resources Home Choices will be collaborating with PhillyWorks of Philadelphia, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the Therapist Action Plan (TAP) Project, which mobilizes occupational, physical and speech therapy professionals and students to meet specific needs of individuals with disabilities during disasters and other emergencies. The training curriculum and the registry developed will serve as the model for similar initiatives across Pennsylvania and the country. The pilot program is funded through a grant from Centene Corporation and PHW. It began July 1, 2020.

For more information about this initiative, interested Philadelphians and potential in-home caregivers are encouraged to contact Liberty Resources' Home Choices program at 215.634.2000 or [info@libertyresources.org](mailto:info@libertyresources.org).

PA Health & Wellness has been supporting Pennsylvania residents since 2017 across its Community HealthChoices, Allwell from PA Health & Wellness and Ambetter plans. Its efforts to address care gaps and work with community partners to devise strategies reinforce its long-standing commitment to supporting the whole health of the community, one person at a time.

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**About PA Health & Wellness**

PA Health & Wellness is a local health insurance provider that is committed to improving the health of the Pennsylvania residents, one person at a time, through access to healthcare coverage. Established to deliver quality healthcare in the state of Pennsylvania through local, regional and community-based resources, PA Health & Wellness is a Managed Care Organization and subsidiary of Centene Corporation (Centene). PA Health & Wellness exists to improve the health of its beneficiaries through focused, compassionate and coordinated care. For more information, visit [PAHealthWellness.com](http://PAHealthWellness.com) for more information.

**About Centene Corporation**

Centene Corporation, a Fortune 100 company, is a leading multi-national healthcare enterprise that is committed to helping people live healthier lives. The Company takes a local approach – with local brands and local teams - to provide fully integrated, high-quality, and cost-effective services to government-sponsored and commercial healthcare programs, focusing on under-insured and uninsured individuals. Centene offers affordable and high-quality products to nearly 1 in 15 individuals across the nation, including Medicaid and Medicare members (including Medicare Prescription Drug Plans) as well as individuals and families served by the Health Insurance Marketplace, the TRICARE program, and individuals in correctional facilities. The Company also serves several international markets, and contracts with other healthcare and commercial organizations to provide a variety of specialty services focused on treating the whole person. Centene focuses on long-term growth and the development of its people, systems and capabilities so that it can better serve its members, providers, local communities, and government partners.

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