



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jay Pagni

mediainquiries@PaHealthWellness.com

717-836-8780

PA Health & Wellness Supports Community Needs During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Partnerships and programs address the social determinants of health in Southeast Pennsylvania

Philadelphia (April 24, 2020) – During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, people across Pennsylvania are facing challenges that extend beyond medical care and include basic daily needs such as food, internet connectivity, and essential supplies.

Social determinants of health are non-medical barriers to achieving quality health outcomes. They include socioeconomic and environment factors such as food accessibility, employment, education, and more. Research shows that medical care accounts for approximately 10 to 20 percent of health outcomes, while the other 80 to 90 percent is affected by the social determinants of health.

“The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are far-reaching and have extended beyond medical care to affect people’s access to food, employment, connectivity, and more,” said Justin Davis, PA Health & Wellness CEO and Plan President. “These social determinants of health have a significant impact on people’s overall wellbeing, especially among vulnerable populations. PA Health & Wellness wants to help ensure we’re supporting the additional needs of communities during this challenging time.”

Hunger and Food Security

The demand on food banks has significantly increased during this pandemic, and it’s estimated that these organizations will need an additional \$1.4 billion in funding during the next six months to provide food assistance to people facing hunger.

As part of its effort to address hunger and food security, PA Health & Wellness, in the Southeast region of PA, has collaborated with **Philabundance** to purchase more than 15,000 shelf-stable meals for people in their nine-county service area.

“This generous contribution from PA Health & Wellness will go a long way to helping us feed those thousands of our neighbors in need,” said Philabundance Chief Development Officer, Sara Hertz. “We are grateful for the support of PA Health & Wellness and thank them for being leaders in our community when we need them most.”

PA Health & Wellness has also partnered with **The Philadelphia Corporation for Aging** to provide food relief to more than 15,000 seniors through the **Emergency Fund for Older Philadelphians**.

“While this pandemic has challenged many organizations to rethink how they deliver services, the partnership between PCA and PA Health & Wellness is a testament to how we can collaborate in new and innovative ways to deliver essential services to Philadelphia’s older adults.” said Najja Orr, PCA President & CEO. “PHW’s generous contribution will greatly aid PCA’s mission by providing access to food to our city’s older adults throughout this crisis.”

PA Health & Wellness has been supporting Southwest Pennsylvania residents since 2017 across its Community HealthChoices, Allwell from PA Health & Wellness, and Ambetter from PA Health & Wellness plans. Its efforts to address the social determinants of health 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 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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