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**UPMC *for You* Chosen to Develop Program To Improve Care for Foster Children**

**PITTSBURGH (January 11, 2007)** — UPMC *for You* has been selected by the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) to develop a program designed to improve access to physical and behavioral health care for children in foster care in Allegheny County.

UPMC *for You*, the Medical Assistance program of UPMC Health Plan, was one of 11 managed care organizations across the country selected by CHCS to be part of a national collaborative. The intent of the collaborative is to develop and pilot promising approaches to meet the health and behavioral care needs of children and youth in the child welfare system.

UPMC *for You* will work in partnership with Community Care Behavioral Health and the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families to coordinate care for children in foster care. The two-year pilot program will begin in early 2007.

"I think we are uniquely positioned to develop a program that improves the quality of care for children and youth in the Allegheny County foster care system and can also be a model program for the rest of Pennsylvania and beyond," said John G. Lovelace, Vice President, Medical Assistance Program, UPMC Health Plan.

In its decision to choose UPMC *for You*, CHCS noted that this program could have "a significant and positive impact" children involved in child welfare in Pennsylvania.

Up to two-thirds of children entering foster care have behavioral or emotional problems. Access to physical and behavioral health services for children in foster care varies drastically across the country.

According to Child Trends, a nonprofit, nonpartisan national research organization, children in foster care are more likely than other children to have a limiting physical,

learning or mental health condition, or to be in poor or fair health. They are also more likely to exhibit high levels of behavioral and emotional problems.

Under this initiative, Community Care hopes to be able to raise the well-child care level for foster children who are new to the system as well as for those being transferred within the system. By providing health screenings for children new to the system, and also arranging for continuity of care for foster children who are moving to new homes, it is believed that both the behavioral and physical health outcomes for these children will improve.

In addition to UPMC Health Plan, the managed care organizations chosen for the collaborative include CareOregon, Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership, Health Net of California, Magellan of Florida, The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership, Mid Rogue IPA (Oregon), Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, Priority Partners MCO (Maryland), Volunteer State Health Plan (Tennessee), and Wraparound Milwaukee. For more information on the collaborative to improve care for children in the child welfare system, visit [www.chcs.org](http://www.chcs.org).

CHCS is a national non-profit organization based in New Jersey that is devoted to improving the quality of health services for beneficiaries served by publicly financed care, especially those with chronic illnesses and disabilities. Its work focuses on three main goals — improving health care quality, reducing racial and ethnic disparities and integrating acute and long-term care.

### **About UPMC Health Plan**

UPMC Health Plan, the second-largest health insurer in Western Pennsylvania, is owned by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), one of the nation's top-ranked health systems. As part of an integrated health care delivery system, UPMC Health Plan partners with UPMC and community network providers to improve clinical outcomes as well as the health of the greater community. According to the *U.S. News & World Report*/NCQA's listing of "America's Best Health Plans," UPMC Health Plan is the top-ranked health plan in Pennsylvania and one of the top 10 health plans in the United States. The Health Plan is also the highest-ranked managed care company in the nation for breast cancer screening. The integrated partner companies of the UPMC Insurance Services Division — which includes UPMC Health Plan, Work Partners, EAP Solutions, UPMC *for You* (Medical Assistance), and Community Care Behavioral Health — offer a full range of group health insurance, Medicare, Children's Health Insurance Program, Medical Assistance, behavioral health, employee assistance, and workers' compensation products and services to over 900,000 members. Our local provider network includes UPMC as well as community providers, totaling more than 80 hospitals and more than 7,000 physicians in a 28-county region.