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Community Care Awarded Contract to Serve as the BHO in the Hudson River Region

PITTSBURGH (Nov. 29, 2011) — Community Care has been awarded a contract to promote the holistic treatment of individuals with mental health and substance abuse disorders in the Hudson River Region of New York state. The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) jointly awarded Community Care a contract to provide utilization management and care coordination services as the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) for the 16-county Hudson River Region.

BHOs are entities with experience and demonstrated expertise managing behavioral health services for individuals with substance abuse and serious mental illness. As the regional BHO, Community Care will serve the behavioral health needs of consumers and provide the accountability needed to ensure clinically appropriate service delivery.

Community Care's primary goal will be to ensure appropriate care and will interact with the inpatient provider around each Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) admission to accomplish this goal. In collaboration with OMH and OASAS, Community Care will work with regional providers and other stakeholders on outreach and engagement strategies to ensure that people who need treatment are engaged in, and remain in, care.

Community Care is in the process of developing the Hudson River Region BHO program with OMH and OASAS in advance of its full implementation on Jan. 1, 2012.

Community Care will open a regional office in Yonkers, N.Y., in November 2011, and a satellite office in Albany, N.Y., by the end of the year. Plans are underway to hire staff local to the Hudson River Region to meet the needs of the Medicaid Redesign Team of New York.

About Community Care

Community Care, a nonprofit, tax-exempt recovery-focused behavioral health managed care organization headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania manages mental health as well as drug and alcohol services primarily for Medical Assistance recipients. Part of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Community Care was incorporated in 1996 with a mission to improve the health and well-being of the community through the delivery of effective and accessible behavioral health services. For more information about Community Care, visit <http://www.ccbh.com>. More information about the BHO program and the long term goals of this initiative can be found at <http://www.omh.ny.gov>.