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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Health Partnership Aims for Better Care for Merrimack Valley Residents** *Dean Cleghorn, EdD, to lead new Accountable Care Organization serving the Merrimack Valley region*

**November 8, 2017 (Lawrence, MA)** – Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC) and Lawrence General Hospital announced today that Dr. Dean Cleghorn of Haverhill has been named Chief Executive Officer of the Merrimack Valley Accountable Care Organization. The new Accountable Care Organization entered into an exclusive agreement with managed care partner Neighborhood Health Plan to form the Merrimack Valley Health Partnership, which will be known as My Care Family<sup>SM</sup> to its nearly 36,000 MassHealth members in the region.

My Care Family will provide high-quality, efficient, coordinated health care to MassHealth patients in the Greater Lawrence area, where many residents face financial and social challenges to accessing care and to maintaining their health. My Care Family unites the resources and expertise of three health care leaders with decades of experience co-managing patients in the region and harnessing existing community resources to meet the distinctive medical and behavioral health needs of the community.

Dean Cleghorn received his academic training in the state of Tennessee, completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology at Lee College and both Master's and Doctorate degrees in Educational and School Psychology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Dean came to Lawrence in 1996 to work in the Lawrence Family



My Care Family offers care and coverage through MassHealth by Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Lawrence General Hospital, and Neighborhood Health Plan.

Medicine Residency Program. He was the Principal Investigator for a CDC grant, called Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH). Largely because of this work in 2010, Dean received the Commissioner's Leadership Award for Taking Action for Community Health and Equity. In recent years, as Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer, Dean continued to build new capacity for business intelligence, producing excellent clinical outcomes, while striving to transform systems of care for the predominantly Latino population served by GLFHC.

"I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity to further advance the quality of care in the Lawrence area through the partnerships among Lawrence General, GLFHC, and NHP," Cleghorn says, "These three organizations have a great history of innovation and quality care for this community. Having worked here for over two decades, I participated in many innovative projects with all three organizations. Collectively, they bring together professional expertise, dedication, and commitment that is truly exceptional. I know firsthand the results of these characteristics—GLFHC is my primary care provider and I have repeatedly chosen Lawrence General for needed emergency and inpatient care, always with high quality outcomes. Despite their resource limitations, I have found great resilience among patients and a strong determination to participate actively to improve their own health. I can't imagine a better place to be part of reforming health care than My Care Family in the Merrimack Valley."

GLFHC President and CEO John Silva agrees, "As founders of the Merrimack Valley Accountable Care Organization we are very excited to add a longtime community health system professional like Dr. Dean Cleghorn, as we, together with Neighborhood Health Plan, embark upon improving quality and access in a true health care system in the Merrimack Valley."

Dianne J. Anderson, RN, President and CEO at Lawrence General Hospital, adds, "We're so pleased to be able to leverage Dean's many years of experience, his strong focus on clinical quality, and his knowledge of this population of patients. He is already a very engaged member of the team that is building this product. We know him well and we are looking forward to his leadership moving our efforts forward."

David Segal, President and CEO of Neighborhood Health Plan, shared his enthusiasm about My Care Family as a groundbreaking health care initiative, "The health care industry can promise better outcomes at lower cost by improving the coordination of existing resources around chronic conditions and disease management, and further emphasis on prevention. Neighborhood looks forward to building on the long-standing relationship we've had with our two partners in support of our mission by providing member-centered, high quality health care services to one of the state's most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations."

My Care Family is one of 17 Accountable Care Organizations statewide—representing 4,500 primary care providers and 850,000 MassHealth patients across the state—selected by the Baker-Polito Administration in June to spearhead the first major overhaul of the state's Medicaid program in 20 years.

The comprehensive, five-year MassHealth overhaul, set to begin in March 1, 2018, aims to evolve from the existing fee-for-service payment method that reimburses doctors and hospitals for each treatment or procedure provided. In its place, the state hopes to expand more integrated, comprehensive and efficient systems that reward innovations able to preserve quality and affordability. By empowering patients with information that allows them to better weigh the risks and rewards of various treatment options, both medically and financially, accountable care organizations make patients more active participants in their own care, as well as encourage patients to lead healthier lives. Within the My Care Family partnership itself, there are financial incentives for providers to focus on preventive resources that improve patient health, while avoiding unnecessary emergency room visits and costly, preventable hospital readmissions.

Individual MassHealth members will be cared for by My Care Family interdisciplinary teams consisting of nurses, doctors, behavioral health professionals, social service providers, and others impacting community health. These team members will be held accountable for working together to ensure that total health needs are met in a member-centric way that results in high quality and efficient care, delivered in cost-appropriate settings for patients and families.

### **About Greater Lawrence Family Health Center**

The mission of Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC) is to improve and maintain the health of individuals and families in the Merrimack Valley by providing a network of high quality, comprehensive health care services and by training health care professionals to respond to the needs of a culturally diverse population. Providing care to nearly 60,000 patients, 60% of whom are Medicaid recipients, from primarily Lawrence, Methuen, and Haverhill, GLFHC operates six clinical facilities located in the quadrants of the City of Lawrence, Methuen Family Health Center, two school-based health centers, at Lawrence High School and Greater Lawrence Technical School, and one hospital-based facility, located within Lawrence General Hospital. GLFHC also provides health care for the homeless at community-based sites throughout the Merrimack Valley. GLFHC is the only provider of (federal) 340B Drug Pricing for medication in the area, and offers Family Pharmacy in each of its main clinic sites. The Lawrence Family Residency Program, owned and operated by Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, trains highly-qualified family physicians to work with underserved populations and includes an intensive Spanish-language element in its curriculum.

### **About Lawrence General Hospital**

Lawrence General Hospital is a regional, independent, nonprofit hospital. Serving more than 110,000 of our neighbors annually, Lawrence General ensures access to high-quality care, the latest technologies, and more than 600 local providers, including primary care and many specialties, delivering caring and personalized treatment. A designated level III trauma center, Lawrence General has one of the busiest emergency departments in Massachusetts, offers a broad range of specialty surgeries in its new Santagati Center for surgery, and leads the region in cardiac care with its highly accredited cardiovascular center. It has clinical affiliations with Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. It offers services from its main campus in Lawrence, as well as from locations in Andover, North Andover, and Methuen, MA and Salem, NH. For more information, visit [www.lawrencegeneral.org](http://www.lawrencegeneral.org).

### **About Neighborhood Health Plan**

Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP) is an NCQA-accredited, not-for-profit health plan that provides coverage to over 380,000 commercial and MassHealth members. For more than 30 years, employers, individuals, and families across Massachusetts have turned to NHP for health care coverage that is both high-quality and affordable. NHP is known for plans that are easy-to-understand and manage. Members have access to a robust network of top doctors, community health centers, and academic and regional hospitals. Founded in 1986 with a commitment to promote health equity for members within the diverse communities we serve, NHP's service and care management programs today continue the tradition of personalized and high-quality care. NHP is a member of Partners HealthCare.

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