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COLLABORATION HEALTH CARE

ALIGNING IDEAS WITH EXECUTION TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE TODAY



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Welcome

Welcome to Collaboration Health Care's November, 2007 newsletter. We'll be using this newsletter as one means to communicate news, views, opinions, and comments to help encourage dialogue to facilitate change within our health care system today.

We might step on some toes in the process– but that's ok. You may agree or you may disagree and, either way, that's ok too. But we want you to have an opinion. It's time to take action to change the delivery of health care in America. Words and rhetoric are not going to suffice any more. We'll welcome your input. And, we'll welcome your support.

What Is a Collaborative Health Care System?

When we started our journey over a year ago we began with a vision of seeing a health care system focused on collaboration, relationships, education, information sharing, and individual accountability on the part of all stakeholders. We recognized the need to break down the numerous individual "silos" that exist today and begin opening the communication channels, building the relationships, and facilitating the collaboration that is going to be required to fix the many problems that exist today.

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We Need To Change Our Thinking

When we started Collaboration Health Care we had a vision of creating a method and approach to help organization's facilitate real change in today's health care delivery system. We saw organizations try the same old things but use different words to try to achieve different results. We listened to health care professionals complain about the way things are, instead of adjusting their business models to confront the economic and market realities of today. And, we recognized that the consumer, the individual, needed to take more responsibility– but has no idea how to do so.

Instilling change in our health care system will require a change in thinking on the part of all stakeholders. We hope to generate some change in thinking as a part of what we do. You may not always agree with our ideas or viewpoints– but at least we'll give you something to think about.

Collaborative Health Care (con't)

Our collaborative health care principles are posted on our web site at www.collaborationhealthcare.com.

These principles are a work-in-progress, but they set the vision for what we believe needs to happen to address the problems facing our health care system today.

Politics will certainly influence the rhetoric that we'll hear over the next year. But, the answer is not black and white.

A collaborative health care system is not conservative or liberal, but is the right mix between the two.

While conservatives will argue for free-market competition in all respects- they fail to recognize the free-market approach is what created the fragmentation and tremendous administrative inefficiencies existing in the system today.

And, while liberals may argue for government control of the system, they don't have a plan for managing or financing the extraordinary infrastructure that would be required.

A collaborative health care system is going to require all of us to think different. It's going to require an alignment of goals among all stakeholders and the right balance between free-market and management oversight. Providers will be held accountable for their results. And, it's going to require a new way to

approach consumers to become a more integral part of the mix than they have been before.

A collaborative health care system is created by developing and maintaining relationships across the broad spectrum of the health care battlefield. It will be created by individuals and organizations doing the right thing and working together for a common cause and mission. It will be created by people talking and listening to relevant issues and thinking outside the box to come up with new ideas and solutions to meet the needs of all concerned.

“Can a collaborative health care system really exist? We think it can, and we think it should.”

Can a collaborative health care system really exist? We think it can, and we think it should. It's simply going to take the right combination of people and organizations to come together with a common purpose and make the right decisions to change the way things are today.

Think About It:

“Like life, business is built on relationships. Err on the side of fairness, and you'll be richer for it every day”
Jack Welch

“Vision without execution is daydreaming”
Bill Gates

“It's not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change.”
Charles Darwin