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## **Health outcomes congress report to be shared with the community**

The current national debate about how to deal with poor health outcomes and fragmentation of care coupled with an ever-escalating cost is an issue vital to the future of health care in America. While the discussion often focuses on national solutions, the importance of grass roots action is vital to bringing about change.

One of the few success stories so far is the Calhoun County 'Pathways to Health' initiative which is working to address those things that impact care related to chronic diseases. Its work, recognized nationally, will be celebrated on Thursday, May 22, at the McCamly Plaza Branson Ballroom from 8 to noon when it reports on its progress to the community it serves. This Outcomes Congress will chronicle the process of change as well as share results of improved outcomes for its pilot patients.

For the last 18 months, community stakeholders have been meeting to address the challenges in health care in Calhoun County. They include employers, insurers, physicians, patients, and community support networks that are working side by side to improve the delivery of health care in the county.

As most can attest, the transformation of health care is not an easy thing to fix. It can be compared to repairing an airplane while flying at 10,000 feet! Several pacesetter physicians who took on this challenge in the last year will report their outcomes.

"These teams dedicated staff and time over the past 12 months to transform their practices in ways that improved the quality and experience of health care they deliver," says Dr. Mary Ellen Benzik, medical director of Integrated Health Partners, a key driver behind this initiative. "This commitment, which took time away from their offices without pay, was not reimbursed. It was done out of their passion to be part of the solution for our community. The results of their hard work and dedication are groundbreaking."

If you would like to attend this public report or learn more about this initiative, please contact Integrated HealthPartners (IHP) at (269) 660-3850.

Battle Creek Health System, sponsored by two parent organizations--Trinity Health (the fourth largest Catholic health system in the U.S. with 12 hospitals, 9 nursing homes, 19 senior house facilities, 8 home health care agencies, and 4 hospices in Michigan alone) and BCHS Community Partners, is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Battle Creek Health System as a recipient of the 2008 HealthGrades Orthopaedic Surgery

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