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July 19, 2010

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Planetree Receives Commonwealth Fund Grant to Develop Designation Criteria and Measurement Strategies for Person-Centered Care

Long-standing leaders in the field from Brown University, IDEAS Institute and My InnerView to collaborate with Planetree

Derby, Conn.—Planetree has been awarded a Commonwealth Fund grant for the development of a refined set of designation criteria and objective outcome metrics by which person-centeredness across continuing care settings can be evaluated. The collaborators working on this grant will have the unprecedented opportunity to align their research and implementation practices to benefit the health continuum. The contributors represent a diverse group of continuing care leaders: Heidi Gil of Planetree, Drs. Susan Miller and Michael Lepore of Brown University's Center for Gerontology and Health Care Research, Dr. Margaret Calkins of IDEAS Institute, and Dr. Vivian Tellis-Nayak and Mary Tellis-Nayak of My InnerView. "Without a reliable measurement instrument continuing care executives cannot pinpoint financial and clinical outcomes impacted by person-centered care," said Heidi Gil. "By harmonizing the qualitative and quantitative data collection and measurement across settings we create the ability to look at outcomes and the implications of person-centered care."

Planetree's designation program provides a practical, operational framework for evaluating the organizational systems and processes necessary to sustain a person-centered culture. The Planetree continuing care path to person-centered care, and subsequently designation, is based upon 30 years of experience with patient-centered care in acute care settings. Funded by the Rothschild Foundation, the designation criteria have been refined over the last two years through the collaborative efforts of the contributors of the grant and the Planetree Continuing Care Advisory Panel.

The primary goal of the six-month project is to refine Planetree's continuing care designation criteria and to develop objective, measurable and meaningful items that can benchmark the progress of person-centered care. The findings will be widely disseminated at the conclusion of the project. The finalized designation criteria will be posted on Planetree's Web site and will be available as a free download. The information will also be disseminated among long-term care organizations, reported in peer-reviewed academic journals and presented at conferences. The measurement instrument is slated to be incorporated into My InnerView's Quality Profile tool and made available to My InnerView clients.

The integration of items developed during this study may have substantial policy implications as it could strengthen states' ability to implement pay-for-performance programs. This instrument also will be viable for

endorsement by the National Quality Forum (NQF), which would strengthen the legitimacy of person-centered care through nationally endorsed measurement.

“This is the first evidence-based path to person-centered care excellence,” said Mary Tellis-Nayak. “Once clear criteria are established and an instrument to measure it, continuing care communities will be able to set goals, assess progress and celebrate successes in person-centered achievements.”

About Planetree

Since its founding as a nonprofit organization in 1978, Planetree has pioneered methods for personalizing, humanizing and demystifying the healthcare experience for patients and their families. Today, Planetree is an internationally recognized leader in patient-centered care. In healthcare settings throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, Planetree is demonstrating that patient-centered care is not only an empowering philosophy, but a viable, vital, and cost-effective model. Since 2002, Planetree has been working with long-term care communities, establishing Planetree Continuing Care. As a field of work beneath Planetree’s overarching umbrella, Planetree Continuing Care specializes in guiding long-term care communities, including nursing homes and assisted living settings, through culture change processes to support the provision of person-centered care. More than 50 Planetree continuing care affiliates internationally are working to implement the Continuing Care guidelines. Additional information is available at www.planetree.org or contact Heidi Gil at 203-732-1365.

About Commonwealth Fund

As part of its work to help bring about a high performance health system, The Commonwealth Fund strives for high performance in long-term care. The Picker/Commonwealth Fund Program on Quality of Care for Frail Elders does this by supporting projects that: identify, test and spread effective, person-centered practices, models, and tools; help nursing homes become high performance organizations; and track and respond to policy issues and health care system trends that affect long-term care. The Frail Elders program, which builds on the Fund's longstanding interest in promoting person-centered care, is led by Vice President Mary Jane Koren, M.D., M.P.H.

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