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## Newsletter

February 10, 2015

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### New Brief: The Role of Local Care Coordinators at CareFirst

CareFirst, a commercial insurer serving Maryland, northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia, [utilizes local nurse care coordinators](#) to support primary care providers within its patient-centered medical home program. Local care coordinators provide care coordination, care planning, and patient education to chronically ill CareFirst members through a combination of telephonic and in-person encounters. In addition to highlighting state policy implications, this brief also showcases how [Michele Brown](#), local care coordinator, is able to drive improvements in care for her patients. After three years of operation, CareFirst reported that the total cost of care for patients covered by its PCMH program was \$267 million less when compared to projected total cost of care from 2011 to 2013.

This [brief](#) is the final in a [six-part series](#) supported by the AARP Public Policy Institute, which explores the evolving role of nurses in new delivery system models.

### New Webinar: Integrating Community Health Worker Models into Evolving State Health Care Systems

February 23, 2015

1:30 - 3:00 pm ET

[Register here](#)

As states transform their health systems, many are turning to CHWs to tackle some of the most challenging aspects of health improvement, such as facilitating care coordination, enhancing access to community-based services, and addressing social determinants of health. As interest in CHWs continues to rise, so do challenges related to defining roles and scope of practice, training and certification, financing, and integrating CHWs into evolving health care systems. This webinar will describe the federal government's investment in CHWs to set the context and feature speakers from state agencies in Massachusetts, New Mexico, and South Carolina who will shed light on how each state is addressing these important issues.

## Webinar: The Promise and Pitfalls of State-based Payment Reform

February 27, 2015

1:00-2:30pm ET

[Register here](#)

Many states across the nation are in the process of designing and implementing multi-payer payment reform initiatives. The goals of these initiatives are to improve patient experience, improve the health of populations, and reduce health care costs.

In this webinar, Alan Weil, Editor-in-Chief *Health Affairs*, will provide a framework for how alternative payment models can help transform the delivery system away from a fragmented fee-for-service system while also considering the risks of state-based payment reform models and strategies to mitigate those risks. Joe Thompson, Director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, and Robin Lunge, Director of Health Care Reform at the Vermont Agency of Administration, will ground this policy presentation in the realities of their payment reform models in Arkansas and Vermont.

### 2015 Call for Ideas

NASHP invites you to submit agenda ideas for the [28th Annual State Health Policy Conference](#), October 19-21, in Dallas, Texas. Include suggestions for topics and speakers. To submit your idea, email a brief description (no more than 65 words) describing your idea to [conference@nashp.org](mailto:conference@nashp.org), using the subject line: **2015 Call for Ideas**.

All submissions are due by Friday, February 27. Submissions will be shared with conference planning committee. If your idea is incorporated into the agenda, NASHP staff will follow up with you no later than May 30, 2015.

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### National Academy for State Health Policy

*The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers who are dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health policy issues. For more information visit [www.nashp.org](http://www.nashp.org).*

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