

# **Testimony in Support of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health**

**Sarah A. Redding, MD, MPH, Co-Developer of the Pathways Community HUB Model, Pathways Community HUB Institute member, and CEO of Care Coordination Systems**

---

Chairman Burke, Ranking Minority Member Cafaro and members of the Senate Medicaid Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health. I'm Sarah Redding, Co-Developer of the Pathways Community HUB Model, member of the National Pathways Community HUB Institute, and CEO of Care Coordination Systems.

As a Preventive Medicine physician in Ohio, I want to lend my support to the Commission's efforts to eliminate disparities in minority health. The Ohio Commission on Minority Health has embraced the Pathways Community HUB Model and has supported the past development and current work of HUBs in Ohio. This model has gained national recognition as an innovative and transformative approach to improving health outcomes while controlling costs. The model has been endorsed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and many others as a leading innovation to address health disparities and achieve the Triple Aim. The model developed with the support of local and state government here in Ohio, and as co-developer of the model, I strongly believe that Ohio has the ability to take this statewide. The Ohio Commission on Minority Health estimates that an investment of \$4.2 million over the biennium will fund grants to expand existing HUBs and start up new HUBs.

The Pathways Community HUB Model is designed to specifically target the most at-risk individuals in a community. Nationally, five percent of the population spends almost fifty percent of the health care dollars and this model is designed to reach out to the most vulnerable. In Ohio, the model has been used for women at risk for poor birth outcomes, but other states have addressed adults with chronic conditions. Pathways are the tools used to track each identified health or social issue through to a measurable completion or outcome. Contracts are developed between the HUB and funders with payment tied to specific Pathway benchmarks and Pathway completions. This model provides infrastructure in communities to link together care coordination agencies and eliminate duplication of services. The HUB uses existing community resources more efficiently and effectively to improve health outcomes. Payment is based on value and not volume or activities, and four out of the five Medicaid managed care plans currently contract with HUBs for payment for Pathways.

The results have been impressive. A recent article published in the Maternal and Child Health Journal showed that this intervention reduced the low birth weight rate to 6.1 percent in a group of very at risk women in Richland County, Ohio. Similar at risk women from the same community had a low birth weight rate of 13 percent. My colleagues from Cincinnati and Toledo will share similar improvements with you around birth outcomes. Pathways Community HUBs in Michigan are showing a fifty percent reduction in per member per month costs for adults with two or more chronic conditions. Once the infrastructure is in place in a community, the HUB can expand to take care of that top five percent that are most at risk.

Funding from the Kresge Foundation has allowed for creation of a national certification process for the model. The Pathways Community HUB Institute has developed clearly defined prerequisites and standards for a community or region to become certified in this model. The core Pathways and coding and billing strategies have been standardized to simplify implementation in new communities. All of the HUBs in Ohio are certified or in process of certification currently. It is critical that all HUBs in the state meet certification criteria now and moving forward to meet the goal of reduced disparities and improved costs.

I am requesting that you support the Ohio Commission on Minority Health to expand its grant program to replicate and strengthen the certified Pathways Community HUB Model across Ohio. I know that we can make a profound difference in the lives of our most vulnerable citizens and be a leader in innovative transformation.

**Sarah A. Redding, MD, MPH**  
**Co-developer of the Pathways Community HUB Model**  
[sarah.redding@ccspathways.com](mailto:sarah.redding@ccspathways.com)  
**419.631.9263**