



## *Fact Sheet*

### **2009 Better Government Competition Awards**

Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, Pioneer Institute's annual Better Government Competition showcases innovative ideas and programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government. Implementation of previous winning entries has saved Massachusetts citizens over \$450 million.

#### **WINNER**

##### **SeniorLink™**

**Caregiver Homes of Massachusetts** – SeniorLink™ is an elder care company that has created a cost effective, community-based program for elders with disabilities. This program is administered by Caregiver Homes of Massachusetts, Inc. (CGH). The CGH program brings together all of the medical and social services needed by adults with levels of disability that qualify them for nursing home care and then places them with a caregiver in a private home. The concept wraps intensive assessments of the total health and social strengths and weaknesses of each elder, the suitability of the intended home setting and appropriate consideration of the potential caregiver. CGH couples a warm, stable, family home environment with specialized medical, mental health, nutritional, substance abuse and social interventions needed by each individual adult. Today CGH is a proven alternative to nursing home placement.

#### **RUNNERS-UP**

##### **Manatee “YourChoice” Health Plan**

*The Center for Health and Lifestyle Management, Manatee County, FL* - Manatee County's approach to healthcare is to provide educational resources through a “people to people” approach to its employees so they can make accountable choices for their health and lifestyle. “YourChoice” began in 2000 and provides financial rewards known as Health Bucks to members who are willing to make healthy, on-going lifestyle choices, so each adult, age 19 or older, employee or spouse, is held accountable for their personal actions to determine their benefit plan.

##### **Occupational Health Services Project**

*Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, Olympia, WA* – The Occupational Health Services (OHS) Project is aimed at improving injured worker outcomes and reducing disability through a community-based change in health care delivery. The project uses a combination of strategies that include incentive payments to healthcare providers linked to quality improvement, clinical leadership, and organizational support and training for providers in occupational health best practices.

##### **Reducing Surgical Complications through a Statewide Massachusetts Surgical Collaborative**

*QCMetrix, Inc, Waltham, MA* – QCMetrix, which has already demonstrated success in Michigan and Tennessee, proposes a payer-funded, statewide surgical collaborative that will identify 35 Massachusetts hospitals interested in collaborating to improve surgical quality, establish a sustainable, cost-efficient system for tracking surgical processes and outcomes at each participating hospital, identifying and implementing “best practices”, tracking quality improvement initiatives targeted at specific, high-leverage procedures, linking quality improvement efforts to rigorous health services research, and demonstrating to both consumers and purchasers that systems of care are effectively working to optimize surgical quality and outcomes.

##### **Retail Clinics**

*Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA* – Over 52 million Americans currently lack health insurance and therefore have limited access to medical care. Retail clinics represent a market-driven approach to cost containment through innovation in primary care, and their accessibility, both geographically and financially, make them an attractive option for a large number of people.

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

### **Wellness Health Incentive Payment PROGRAM (WHIP)**

*Maricopa County, AZ* - The WHIP program supports improved overall service and access to quality medical services for Maricopa County Government employees by holding health care benefit vendors accountable according to nationally recognized performance measures.

### **A National Market for Individual Health Insurance**

*Division of Health Policy and Management, Minneapolis, MN* - A national market, where individuals buy insurance licensed in another state, could lead to better access to healthcare and improved health among the populations who find insurance unaffordable.

### **Sustainable Health Insurance Cost Control Opportunity**

*Fallon Community Health Plan, Worcester, MA* - The solution to cost savings calls for providing a group health insurance plan that is supported by both a limited network of providers and a defined contribution strategy.

### **Massachusetts Hospital CPOE Initiative**

*New England Healthcare Institute and Massachusetts Technology Collaborative* - CPOE is a computer application used by physicians and other caregivers to enter diagnostic and therapeutic orders for tests and drugs for hospital patients.