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L.A. Care's Robert E. Tranquada, M.D. Safety Net Award granted to JWCH

L.A. Care Health Plan has awarded a \$440,000 grant to JWCH in support of the development of an electronic information system for health services to homeless persons to facilitate coordination of care among various providers. The grant will enable JWCH and other community-based organizations to better serve the vulnerable populations residing in and around the Skid Row area of Downtown Los Angeles.

With this funding, JWCH will build health information system for homeless patients. The system will serve as a registry of patients and a record of encounters with its partner health and social service providers. Creating and implementing an integrated system of care for the homeless population is particularly challenging due to the numerous problems their patients have and the multitude of providers, sites of service and organizations involved in their care – such as housing, social, educational, family and employment services. An electronic information system will facilitate the coordination of care and enhance the efficiency of services by reducing duplication and fragmentation among service providers. One of the proposed outcomes for this project is the ability to advocate for needed changes in public policy regarding healthcare systems for the homeless in Los Angeles.

This project is the only one of its kind in the country, and in the first year of implementation, up to 10,000 may benefit from these efforts. "At present we are the only organization or collaborative involved in such a system. It's exciting!!" said Paul Gregerson, Chief Medical Officer of JWCH.

L.A. Care Health Plan is a public entity and community-accountable health plan serving Los Angeles County residents through a variety of programs, including Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, L.A. Care's Healthy Kids, and L.A. Care's Medicare Special Needs Plan. L.A. Care is a leader in developing new programs through innovative partnerships designed to provide health coverage to vulnerable populations and to support the safety net. With nearly 800,000 members, L.A. Care is the nation's largest public health plan. For more information, please visit [www.lacare.org](http://www.lacare.org)