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Local Providers Host Forum to Discuss Changes in General Assistance Medical Care  
*Focus on How Recent Decisions Will Impact Patients and Providers*

**Rochester, Minn.** – Recent changes to General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), the creation of coordinated care delivery systems to care for the GAMC population and the state’s decision to not enroll early in Medicaid have had significant effects for Minnesotans. A group of local patients, providers, non-profits, law enforcement and government agencies is meeting to discuss these decisions and educate the community on their implications.

“A key focus of the discussion will be on the impact the updates to GAMC has had on patients and providers alike,” said Patricia Carlson, executive director for Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center. “It’s important for the community to hear firsthand the strategies that organizations have implemented to serve this population and the short- and long-term costs to continue doing so.”

Topics include:

- A review of the steps leading to the GAMC reorganization
- Rationale of why local hospitals chose to not become a coordinated care delivery system
- Actions Olmsted County and area providers are assisting the GAMC population
- How area patients have been affected and the actions these individuals have taken
- Impact of the GAMC reorganization on local health care providers
- Legislative responses and potential future opportunities

Participants include Olmsted County Community Services, Olmsted County Public Health, Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center, Mayo Clinic, Olmsted Medical Center, members of the Minnesota House of Representatives’ Health and Human Services Committee along with other community health care providers and patients.

The forum will take place on Tuesday, September 14, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Room HB117 at the Heinz Center.

(more)

**About Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center**

Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center enhances the quality of life for residents in southeastern Minnesota by serving as a community resource for the understanding and treatment of behavioral health and substance use disorders. The organization collaborates with government agencies, schools, non-profit groups and others to provide programs dedicated to improving the mental health of adults, adolescents and children. Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center is a private, non-profit organization serving Olmsted and Fillmore counties. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.zumbromhc.org](http://www.zumbromhc.org) or call 507-289-2089.

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