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IN BRIEF

COPE Launches Coordinated Care Effort

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Los Angeles-based COPE Health Solutions has launched a service line that will focus on care coordination. The practice of carefully coordinating care for patients between inpatient and post discharge care has been linked to dramatic reductions in costs and fewer readmissions to hospitals after discharge.

Along with providing planning and modeling to clients for care coordination programs, COPE officials said they would train what are known as “certified care navigators” to help provide a continuum of coordinated care for patients at hospitals. The training would come in part through COPE’s existing health scholars program, which prepares college students for careers in healthcare or to pursue post-graduate degrees in the field.

“Health systems--who have achieved remarkable success by employing case managers to identify opportunities, make connections, close gaps and troubleshoot issues--do not have nearly enough people to carry out all of these tasks, in California or anywhere else,” said COPE Executive Vice President Cindy Ehnes, who is overseeing the care coordination effort. “Certified care navigators help fill this acute need.”

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