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Culture Care Connection is revitalized with timely health and racial equity content

UCare and Stratis Health enhance digital hub with tools, resources and training about social drivers of health and cultural inequities

MINNEAPOLIS, June 28, 2021 — UCare and Stratis Health understand that health starts in our homes, our schools and our communities. Conditions where people live, work and play influence health outcomes 80% compared with biological health conditions that influence outcomes 20%. Yet, health screenings, referrals and care processes rarely take community-based social drivers of health or social determinants of health (SDOH) into account. In addition, the impacts of systemic racism and unconscious bias have largely gone unnoticed in determining health care access, treatment and outcomes in communities of color.

Culture Care Connection is changing that dynamic with a comprehensive redesign of its unique online learning and resource center. The goal is to support clinical and non-clinical health professionals with tools and resources to build awareness skills and encourage action to help them be responsive to and supportive of the diverse patients and communities they serve. The refreshed site offers tools, resources and training for health care professionals that simultaneously tackle inequitable care and biases and improve patient and community health.

“UCare is excited to strengthen our partnership with Stratis Health as we continue to advance health and racial equity for our members and communities,” said Ghita Worcester, UCare’s Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Marketing Officer. “Helping our provider partners take action and stay current about health equity, disparities, anti-racism, and related topics helps them deliver the best possible patient care and helps patients achieve their best possible health.”

“For many people, the pandemic and racial injustice crises widened already large, persistent gaps in health care benefits and services,” said Sue Severson, Vice President, Health Information Technology Services for Stratis Health. “Stratis Health is making lives better by designing a system

that is attuned to social determinants of health and bridges health care and community to more holistically meet patient needs and ultimately achieve better health.”

Numerous studies show that health care professionals are prone to implicit biases, which can impact clinician-patient interactions. Clinicians may provide the same information to all patients about treatment choices, risks and outcomes, but nonverbal cues can counter efforts to display empathy or build rapport. Bias can change a patient’s behavior, resulting in higher treatment dropout, lower participation in screenings and vaccines, delays in filling prescriptions, poorer perception of care quality, avoidance of health care, and ultimately, worse health outcomes.

Culture Care Connection’s [robust new section on addressing bias and driving equity](#) provides resources for health care providers to start their journey of identifying bias and building anti-racist cultures. The enhanced digital resource center complements UCare’s collaboration with the Minnesota Medical Association on [a multi-year health and racial equity initiative](#) fostering anti-racist policies and practices among Minnesota’s health care providers.

About UCare

[UCare](#) is an independent, nonprofit health plan providing health care and administrative services to more than 550,000 members throughout Minnesota and parts of western Wisconsin. UCare partners with health care providers, counties, and community organizations to create and deliver Medicare, Medicaid and Individual & Family health plans. All of its plans are National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) certified.

The health plan addresses health care disparities and care access issues through a broad array of community initiatives. UCare has received Top Workplaces honors from the Star Tribune for 12 consecutive years since the rankings began in 2010.

About Stratis Health

[Stratis Health](#) is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to collaborate and innovate to improve health. Stratis Health delivers data-driven insights, evidence-based interventions, and leading-edge improvement methodologies that inspire organizations and communities to achieve solutions to their most complex health improvement challenges.

In 2021, Stratis Health celebrates its 50th anniversary. The organization remains true to its mission, embracing new and emerging improvement methodologies and deepening its work to bridge health care and community.