

Main Line Health forms collaboration with community organizations

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Members of Together for West Philadelphia gather with U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans (D-Pa.) to display the group's charter agreement, signed by representatives of each member organization. — PHOTO

SUBMITTED BY MAIN LINE HEALTH

Ayana Jones Tribune Staff Writer

Main Line Health (MLH) hosted a dinner on Feb. 19 at Lankenau Medical Center to commemorate the establishment of Together for West Philadelphia, a community partnership of organizations across the Philadelphia region dedicated to ensuring that equitable care and opportunity is accessible to all.

During the inaugural dinner U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans (D-Pa.) demonstrated his support of the group's charter, which states that its key objectives are to:

Foster development of an alliance to enable stakeholders from a variety of associations to collaborate on projects for the benefit of the West Philadelphia community and to leverage resources within the collaborative in order to develop and advance comprehensive and sustainable programs of greater impact.

Leverage learnings, evidence-based methodologies and best practices from similar collaboratives (in the region and nationally) in order to efficiently replicate and appropriately scale practical solutions for the community.

“Our goal for Together for West Philadelphia is to make this a grassroots effort that will become a best practice population health solution for our community,” said Dr. Barry Mann, chief academic officer, MLH.

“We are thankful for the support of Congressman Evans, and we hope that successes here will enable Congressman Evans to take the concept back to Washington so that others might replicate it.”

Along with MLH, community partners to date include Spectrum Health, The Food Trust, ACHIEVEability, Drexel University, Friend’s Central School, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of the Sciences, The Links, Inc., Leon H. Sullivan Charitable Trust, Villanova University, Rosemont College, Saint Joseph’s University, Aramark and the Chester Charter School for the Arts.

“Our charter calls for us to be inclusive, and we look forward to having many more organizations join us,” said Chinwe Onyekere, associate administrator, Lankenau Medical Center.

“As is reflective of our core values of ensuring an environment of diversity, respect and inclusion, Together for West Philadelphia demonstrates the need for improvement of access to care, education and opportunity for all in the communities we serve,” said Jack Lynch, president and CEO, Main Line Health.

“It is our hope that the launch of this collaborative will be of benefit to our pursuit of equity for West Philadelphia communities.”

MLH is a not-for-profit health system serving portions of Philadelphia and its western suburbs.