



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**THE MEDICAL HOME AND EFFECTIVE PRIMARY CARE  
MAY PREVENT DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

A forum was held by the Health Affairs” Journal on primary care and the “Patient Centered Medical Home” (PCMH) which is a long term comprehensive relationship that include whole person care, comprehensive communication, patient support, empowerment, ready access, first contact, integrated coordinated care, with rescue care. In Calhoun County, Michigan, as a result of (PCMH), there was a 49% reduction in hospitalizations and better health outcomes at lower costs.

The process of refurbishing primary care into medical homes may require many years. There is need for greater investment in the primary care infrastructure. It is difficult to make medical homes to comply with standard practices in which physicians integrate new patterns of activity into their practices. In addition, medical students going into primary care declined by 50% between 1999 and 2005. It was suggested that some restriction be removed on some providers of health care for provision of primary care.

**Disability Prevention Issue**

Access to effective medical care all of the time can prevent diminished health that may contribute to the prevention of disability. The “Patient Centered Medical Home” (PCMH) can provide access to care and appropriate services for vulnerable people that may prevent diminished health and disability. However, primary care providers may not effectively address certain health condition. Thus, it was suggested that the entry point to medical services for people with persistent mental disorders may be a specialty setting as the main point of contact rather than the medical home.

**Activity**

There is ongoing study of the implications of activity in “Patient Centered Medical Homes” associated with public health issues that diminish health and contribute to disability.

**Principle**

There is need to develop policies to create more equitable opportunities for vulnerable populations to be provided with effective health care through medical homes to prevent disability.