

'One Friday, Four Futures' Initiative Launched

Initiative Created to Seek Community Input
On What the Region's Health Care System
Might Look Like in the Future

The Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York in conjunction with The John R. Oishei Foundation, the p² Collaborative of Western New York and the University at Buffalo Regional Institute, have launched "*One Friday, Four Futures*", an initiative that utilizes scenario planning to seek community input on what the region's health care system might look like in the future.

"Scenario planning is a dramatically new concept for our region as far as addressing a public policy issue because it offers the community an opportunity to look ahead and shape the system of the future through community wide conversation and dialogue," Anne F. Monroe, president of the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York said. "The conversations that will take place over the next several months are intended to gather community input so we can put forth recommendations for a health system that can meet the needs of diverse constituencies, including the elderly, rural communities, and families in poverty, to name just a few."

One Friday, Four Futures has been carefully planned for more than a year and reflects the active input of a wide-range of perspectives, including officials representing consumer, provider, urban, rural, business and labor interests and organizations. The initiative is premised around four scenarios depicting what the health care system in the region

may look in the year 2018. The four scenarios will be presented in audio format with trained facilitators leading a discussion for feedback and comments to the scenarios.

The objection of *One Friday, Four Futures* is to build a composite picture of what the users of the health system would like the system to deliver in the future. The information will be used to provide policy makers with recommendations regarding proposals to address the complex issues challenging the region's health care system, including costs and access to care.

"All of us are users of health care," Monroe continued. "The initiative is structured to hear from as many users as possible about what they need and want from their health care system. Then, these many perspectives can be rolled up to create an accurate picture of the community's priorities."

Conversations will be hosted throughout Western New York by various entities, including church and civic groups, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations and block clubs. Any group or organization is welcome to host a *One Friday, Four Futures* community conversation by calling (716) 829-3777, or by visiting online www.rx4excellence.org. The scenarios also have been translated into Spanish for conversations to take place in the Hispanic community.

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