Executive Summary

America’s health care system has needed repair for years. But the COVID-19 pandemic thrust an unforgiving spotlight on the system’s shortcomings and the urgent need for change.

Our hospital-based acute care system is expensive, inconvenient and inefficient. Chronic conditions are on the rise, and life expectancy has declined in America. Differences in health outcomes are determined primarily by zip code, limiting the wellbeing and economic opportunity of entire communities. Inappropriate, low-value interventions drive up costs and put patients at risk. And the fragmented, fee-for-service system rewards clinicians for doing more things to more people more often.

Scientific innovation has led to life-saving advances, but taken as a whole the system is underperforming. The pandemic gives new urgency to population health investments and a value-driven approach that puts patients first. Private sector solutions give us the opportunity to make vast improvements without extreme disruption or added cost.

In this report, the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) lays out nonpartisan, practical changes for immediate and long-lasting improvement. ACHP’s vision for the next decade of reform promotes a system focused on health and healthier communities – one that safely delivers care where and when patients want it; one in which evidence guides decision making; one in which quality and outcomes are paramount; and one in which data is both secure and accessible. Greater investment in primary care, prevention, telehealth, mental health and screening for unmet social needs offers a proven path forward at this critical juncture.

The strategies tested and perfected by ACHP member companies nationwide are the basis for Health Care 2030: ACHP’s Roadmap to Reform. The roadmap prescribes a clear path to refashioning an industry from the current sick care model to one that’s designed for wellbeing. And because ACHP member companies are built on a collaborative model that brings together health plans, clinical teams and the community, our solutions advance the interests of individuals, not Wall Street investors. Decades of on-the-ground experience give ACHP members the ability not only to create a roadmap for others to follow, but also to take our own advice, lead by example and provide an evidence-based framework that transcends politics.

As part of the 10-year plan, ACHP member organizations commit to addressing areas that offer the most significant opportunities for health improvement and greater value. These areas include reducing the prevalence of chronic disease and implementing real solutions to improve health care affordability.

Fully realized, the roadmap moves the country toward a system that enhances the health of individuals and communities. Together, these improvements will shape the system for long-term sustainability and a healthier nation.

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