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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Camden Coalition celebrates 20 years with breakfast event

CAMDEN, NJ – 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the Camden Coalition as a multidisciplinary nonprofit dedicated to improving the health and well-being of individuals with complex health and social needs — those who tend to fall through the cracks of traditional healthcare and social services systems. To mark the occasion, the organization is hosting a breakfast in Camden for its city, county, and state partners. Among the attendees expected at the event are Camden Mayor Victor Carstarphen; Camden County Commissioner Director Louis Cappelli, Jr.; Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families Christine Norbut Beyer, MSW; New Jersey Commissioner of Health Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.; and Sarah Adelman, Commissioner of the state’s Department of Human Services.

The Camden Coalition began as a series of breakfast meetings organized by founder Dr. Jeffrey Brenner and others who were seeking innovative ways to care for Camden residents and reduce healthcare costs while doing so. The organization grabbed national headlines in the early 2000s, including a feature on PBS’ *Frontline* series, for its “hotspotting” approach — which identified individuals who cycled in and out of emergency departments and hospital inpatient units without lasting improvements to their health and well-being — and for developing new care models that connected these individuals to ongoing care.

Since that time, the organization has continued to develop and refine person-centered approaches to care delivery, launching the National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs in 2016 to share lessons from its work in Camden on a national scale.

“We are so excited to be celebrating 20 years of our work with so many of our partners in Camden and New Jersey,” says Kathleen Noonan, Camden Coalition President and CEO since 2018. “This event marks 20 years of collaboration between us and multiple stakeholder groups which has not only been fundamental to our success but a testament to what can be achieved when organizations large and small — even competing health systems in the same city — come together to work in the best interest of their community. We look forward to continuing our work with the city, county, and state on programs that prioritize the health and well-being of residents in Camden and throughout South Jersey.”

“The Camden Coalition has made a significant impact on the way healthcare is provided at a community level in the region. The organization has also helped thousands of individuals in Camden who are living with multiple chronic health conditions and struggling with social barriers to wellness. Cooper is proud to have incubated the Camden Coalition at its onset and we are fortunate to consider the organization as a key partner. We look forward to continuing our work with them to improve the health and well-being of individuals who may otherwise fall through the cracks,” says Louis Bezich, Senior Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer at Cooper University Health Care. Bezich is also Chair of the Camden Coalition’s Board of Trustees.

The breakfast celebration on December 1 is a nod to the organization’s origins and honors the Camden Coalition’s role as community organizers, first and foremost. “Our size and aspirations may have expanded over the past two decades,” remarks Noonan, “but our vision of transformed health and social systems that ensure every individual receives person-centered care rooted in authentic healing relationships remains the same.”

For more information on the Camden Coalition, visit www.camdenhealth.org.

About the Camden Coalition

We are a multidisciplinary nonprofit working to improve care for people with complex health and social needs in Camden, NJ, and across the country. The Camden Coalition works to advance the field of complex care by implementing person-centered programs and piloting new models that address chronic illness and social barriers to health and well-being. Supported by a robust data infrastructure, cross-sector convening, and shared learning, our community-based programs deliver better care to the most vulnerable individuals in Camden and regionally.

Through our National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs (National Center), an initiative of the Camden Coalition, we connect complex care practitioners with each other and support the field with tools and resources that move complex care forward. The National Center's founding sponsors are the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and AARP.