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Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality Appoints New Leader for Improvement-Driven Initiative

MILWAUKEE—Deborah Unger, MSOLQ has been named executive director of the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality, Inc., a statewide consortium of improvement driven healthcare providers and business partners working to improve healthcare in Wisconsin.

“Deborah’s management skills, combined with her marketing and communications background, will make her a strong advocate for the Collaborative and its efforts,” said John Toussaint, M.D., chairman of the Collaborative and president/CEO of ThedaCare in Appleton. “As we continue to combine the efforts of providers throughout the state, Deborah will continue to add focus and direction to our goal of improving healthcare quality.”

As executive director, Unger’s responsibilities include organizational development, and managing the day-to-day operations associated with an initiative of this capacity.

“I’m honored to accept this important role and look forward to helping the Collaborative carry out its mission,” said Unger.

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*Focused on quality.
Creating value.*

Bellin Health
Green Bay

Dean Health System
Madison

Froedtert Hospital
Milwaukee

Gundersen Lutheran
La Crosse

Marshfield Clinic
Marshfield

Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee

St. Marys Hospital Medical Center
Madison

Saint Joseph’s Hospital
Marshfield

ThedaCare
Appleton

Unger brings with her over fifteen years of experience in the healthcare communications and business management arena. Unger was vice president and public relations account supervisor for Blue Horse, Inc., an integrated marketing communications agency with expertise in the healthcare market, for five years, and most recently was a management consultant for a variety of healthcare providers in Southeastern Wisconsin. Unger received her bachelor's degree in Organizational Communications and English from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and her master's in Organizational Leadership and Quality from Marion College.

The Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality is a group of seven hospitals, six physician organizations, four health plans, employers, and labor organizations from geographically balanced regions of the state that have come together to develop and share best practices and quality outcomes. The Collaborative recently published its first Performance & Progress Report, which includes an initial set of 42 comparative measures of healthcare quality and details the performance of participating healthcare organizations. The work of the Collaborative, organized in 2003, is based on the principle that by focusing on improving quality, better care for patients and more rational costs will result

The sponsoring members of the Collaborative include Bellin Health in Green Bay, Wis., Dean Health System in Madison, Wis., Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse, Wis., Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wis., Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, St. Marys Hospital Medical Center in Madison, Wis., Saint Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield, Wis., and ThedaCare in Appleton, Wis.

Business and labor partners include The Alliance, Appleton Papers, Badger Meter, DaimlerChrysler, Schneider National, Sentry Insurance, Serigraph, Inc., The Trane Company, United Auto Workers and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce.

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