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Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance Receives Grant from Aetna Foundation to Improve Area Diabetes Care

Grant will fund consumer education to increase understanding of diabetes risk factors and improve selection of quality physicians

DALLAS – September 22, 2008 – The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) today announced that it has received a \$50,000 grant from the Aetna Foundation to improve diabetes care at a community level through a collaborative effort of DFW area employers, physicians, health plans and consumers, called the Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance. The goal of the Partnership is to improve the quality of care for prevalent chronic illnesses, support the physician-patient relationship in the care management process, and empower consumers to make informed decisions about their health care. The grant will be used to educate and engage employee-consumers of DFWBGH member companies to improve their understanding of diabetes risk factors and appropriate diabetes care and to use physician quality information to access the best diabetes care when needed.

“Consumer engagement is one of the most important and challenging aspects of the Partnership project,” said Marianne Fazen, executive director of the business group.

“Consumers and patients must be motivated to take ownership of their health, understand their options and make informed decisions about when and where to go for health care services.”

The Partnership for Peak Healthcare Performance involves approximately 80 percent of the nearly 4,100 primary care physicians in the DFW market and their patients through the provider networks of the five participating health plans - Aetna, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Cigna, Humana and UnitedHealthcare, and nearly 300,000 local employees of DFWBGH member companies and their family members.

“In keeping with Aetna's commitment to support the communities where our employees and constituents live and work, we are proud to support the Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on

Health,” said Duane Cote, vice president of Sales and Service for national accounts at Aetna. “With over 20 million Americans affected by diabetes, we are pleased that our grant will be used as part of the consumer engagement project to help educate North Texans about this disease.”

About the Aetna Foundation

The Aetna Foundation is the independent charitable and philanthropic arm of Aetna Inc. Founded in 1972, the Foundation seeks to help build healthy communities by funding initiatives that improve the quality of life where Aetna’s employees and customers work and live. The Foundation’s giving is focused on health, diversity and employee community involvement, with broader programs in Aetna’s home state of Connecticut. Since 1980, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation have contributed over \$334 million in grants, sponsorships and social investments. In 2007, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation contributed \$24.5 million nationally. Additional information about the Aetna Foundation is available at www.aetna.com/foundation.

About the Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health

The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health is a 130-member coalition of Dallas and Fort Worth area employers committed to market-based health care reform. Members include American Airlines, Bell Helicopter-Textron, Brinker International, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, JC Penney, Neiman Marcus, Sabre Holdings, Southwest Airlines, and Texas Instruments. A member of the National Business Coalition on Health, DFWBGH’s goals are to empower employers to make informed health care purchasing decisions and to encourage health care providers to continuously improve their performance. www.dfwbgh.org.

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