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For more information, contact:

Thomas J. Croyle

E-mail: tcroyle@lvbch.com

LVBCH Announces Partnership to Provide Self-Insured Medical Insurance Benefits for Smaller Employer Groups

Bethlehem, PA (September 20, 2016) The **Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare** (LVBCH) today announced a new partnership arrangement that provides smaller employers the benefits of self-insurance typically available only to larger employers. The arrangement with Emerson Reid, CoreSource and Excess Reinsurance offers new medical insurance options to LVBCH employer groups of 50 or more employees through a select group of brokers/consultants.

LVBCH's level-funded solution offers employers eight different plan design options from which to choose as well as two pharmacy options. The program also provides telehealth services which allow employees to receive convenient, quality healthcare from licensed healthcare professionals. Members can access the service from almost anywhere on computers or mobile devices. Another feature offers the ability to compare price and quality information when shopping for elective healthcare services. Key components of the health plan design are programs and incentives to improve employee health and well-being.

"We are extremely pleased to be able to join these respected partners to bring LVBCH's value-based health insurance options to the smaller employer market. Many smaller employers have been particularly hard hit by the ever rising cost of health care services and prescription drugs," said LVBCH president, Tom Croyle.

The program features Cigna's national preferred provider organization (PPO) network. Cigna, an endorsed LVBCH partner, was the top performing health insurance company in eastern and central PA in a 2015 assessment conducted by LVBCH and the National Business Coalition on Health. The extensive assessment utilized a nationally recognized, evidenced-based tool called eValue8™. The eValue8™ tool is used by purchaser-led health care coalitions and employer groups across the country to gauge how well health insurers are managing care services for employers.

For more information, contact Tom Croyle via phone at 610-317-0130 or via email at lvbch@lvbch.com.

About LVBCH

LVBCH is a multi-state, not-for-profit, coalition of employers striving to provide access to quality affordable healthcare for their employees. The Coalition's mission is to improve the delivery, cost and quality of health care in our communities through: Collective employer action; Quality and data initiatives; Value based purchasing; and, Providing forums for the exchange of information, ideas and resources. The Coalition is also a member of the National Business Coalition on Health, the National Quality Forum and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.LVBCH.com.