



## News Release

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### **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) certifies AALFA Family clinic as a health care home**

*Important step toward statewide transformation of primary care*

The Minnesota Department of Health has certified AALFA Family clinic as a health care home. This means that AALFA Family clinic has met a set of rigorous standards to provide patient- and family-centered care and is working to improve both the overall quality and affordability of health care.

Health care homes, also known as “medical homes,” offer a team approach to primary care making it easier for patients to communicate and partner with their care team. Care teams can include clinicians, nurses, specialists, care coordinators and community resources.

In a health care home, a care coordinator works as a liaison with the patient’s individual team. AALFA Family Clinic’s care coordinator develops a relationship with patients and their families to work with them toward coordinating their care and achieve better health. This includes streamlining access to appointments, improving communication with specialists, answering questions over the phone and planning for care. This approach to care can be particularly helpful for people with complex and chronic conditions.

Health care homes are an important component of Minnesota’s 2008 health reform law, also known as “Minnesota’s Vision for a Better State of Health.” The goals for the law are to simultaneously improve the health of the population, the patient experience and the affordability of health care.

This approach fits well into our independent practice. Within this last year, we implemented patient involvement by putting together the “Patient Quality Improvement Team”. This team’s participation will be the voice of patient advocacy. This approach continues to uphold our ultimate goal of fulfilling AALFA’s mission which states:

*“AALFA is an acronym for “All Ages Like Firsthand Attention.” Our Mission is to provide Pro-Life, Christian health care for you and your family, along with the doctors and staff striving for excellent patient care. We recognize diversity by treating all patients with dignity and respect. Our goals are to work collectively as a group to provide complete quality Medical Health Care to our patients and to expand and improve the range of Healthcare services we offer.”*

More information on health care homes is available online at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/homes/index.html>.

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