

Meeting the Moment Together: A NorthPoint Community Conversation

Discussion Summary

Description:

On **July 29, 2026**, NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center hosted **Meeting the Moment Together: A NorthPoint Community Conversation**, bringing together community members, healthcare leaders, and elected officials for an open and informative discussion about the changing healthcare landscape.

Moderated by **NorthPoint CEO Kimberly Spates**, the panel featured **Hennepin County Board Chair Dr. Irene Fernando** and **Minnesota State Representative Esther Agbaje**, who shared their perspectives on recent federal healthcare policy changes, their potential impact on individuals and families, and the importance of working together to ensure continued access to care.

The purpose of the conversation was not to debate public policy, but to provide clear information, answer questions with honesty and transparency, and reaffirm NorthPoint's commitment to serving every member of the community with compassionate, high-quality care. Throughout the discussion, panelists emphasized the importance of trusted information, strong community partnerships, and ensuring that no one feels alone in navigating an evolving healthcare system.

The following summary highlights the five key themes that emerged during the conversation.

Topic 1: Understanding a Changing Healthcare Landscape

Recent federal budget and healthcare policy changes are creating uncertainty for many individuals and families who rely on public health coverage. Throughout the discussion, panelists helped explain what is changing, what remains unknown, and why it is important to stay informed as implementation continues.

Key discussion points included:

- Recent policy changes may affect eligibility for public healthcare programs, including Medicaid and MinnesotaCare.
- Some individuals may be impacted by new work reporting requirements and other eligibility changes.
- Many details are still being finalized, making accurate information and trusted guidance especially important.
- Community members were encouraged to seek reliable information and ask questions before making decisions about their healthcare coverage.

Topic 2: Protecting Access to Care

One of the strongest messages shared throughout the conversation was simple: losing health insurance should never prevent someone from seeking healthcare.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), NorthPoint remains committed to providing care regardless of a person's insurance status or ability to pay.

Discussion highlights included:

- NorthPoint provides care to everyone, regardless of insurance coverage.
 - Sliding fee discounts and financial counseling services are available to help reduce financial barriers.
 - Staff are available to help patients understand their healthcare options and connect them with available resources.
 - Preventive care and routine medical visits remain important, even during times of uncertainty.
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Topic 3: The Impact Reaches Beyond Healthcare

The conversation also explored how changes in healthcare coverage affect much more than doctor's appointments.

Access to healthcare influences nearly every aspect of a person's well-being, including employment, education, financial stability, housing, and mental health.

Panelists discussed how:

- Delaying healthcare often leads to more serious health conditions later.
 - Families experiencing healthcare challenges frequently face additional financial and emotional stress.
 - Communities already experiencing health disparities are often affected first and most significantly.
 - Supporting community health requires looking beyond medical care alone.
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Topic 4: Strong Partnerships Create Stronger Communities

No single organization can meet these challenges alone.

Throughout the event, panelists emphasized the importance of collaboration among healthcare providers, community organizations, local government, elected officials, and residents.

Key themes included:

- Working together allows organizations to better coordinate services and reduce barriers to care.
 - Open dialogue strengthens trust and helps communities respond more effectively to change.
 - Community partnerships are essential to improving long-term health outcomes.
 - NorthPoint is proud to serve not only as a healthcare provider, but also as a trusted, community partner and convener.
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Topic 5: Moving Forward Together

Although the discussion acknowledged the challenges many families may face, the overall message was one of hope, resilience, and shared responsibility.

Participants were encouraged to:

- Stay informed using trusted sources.
- Ask questions and seek assistance before healthcare needs become emergencies.
- Continue accessing preventive and routine healthcare.
- Reach out to NorthPoint for support navigating available resources and services.
- Work together to build a healthier, stronger community.