

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 4, 2015

Contact: Ryan Gilbert  
(617) 740-2515

## **DotHouse Health President Participates in Behavioral Health Panel During the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual MHA Mid-Winter Leadership Forum**

**Framingham, MA-** DotHouse Health was represented by President and CEO Walter Ramos during the Massachusetts Hospital Association's annual leadership forum last Friday, Feb. 27. The topic of this gathering of all Massachusetts hospitals and providers was "Aligning Mission and Margin: Integrating Behavioral Health into the Equation."

Addiction and mental health issues often underpin other chronic medical conditions that can be prevented if the right care is given at the right time. This conference focused on how the continuum of care can be leveraged- through care and good public health policy- to keep patients treated, managed, and in the right settings to reduce readmissions and improve patients' quality of life.

DotHouse Health was asked to participate in a panel revolving around the topic of integrating behavioral health across the continuum of care. The moderator for this panel was Jim Braude, host of *Broadside* on NECN.

"Behavioral health is a key part of our patients overall health and this grant enables us to facilitate access to behavioral health care in a way that is patient centered, convenient and comprehensive.," according to Ramos.

Last year, DotHouse Health was awarded a grant for Mental Health Service Expansion & Behavioral Health Integration through the Affordable Care Act. Through this funding opportunity our health center has been able to hire a full time behavioral health clinician as well as implement a model of universal behavioral health screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment within our Adult Medicine and Pediatrics departments. DotHouse Health is on track to help serve 3,000 patients through this service.



Moderator: Jim Braude

Panel from Left to Right: Kevin Norton, Walter Ramos, Michele Gougeon and Paul Summergrad

The Massachusetts Hospital Association's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Winter Leadership Forum took place at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel and was attended by over 300 health care industry leaders.

### **About DotHouse Health**

DotHouse Health (Formerly Dorchester House) is a federally qualified health center located in the Fields Corner neighborhood of Dorchester. 127 years ago, our founders had a brilliant vision. They understood that a person's well-being wasn't just about one facet of a person's life, but it was about the well-being of the whole person. It's about taking care of the whole person across their life span. We continue to follow this vision by not only offering healthcare but, also community and social services to the people of Dorchester. We offer our 23,000 patients extensive case management, financial and legal services as well as a number of community programs. By connecting our patients with comprehensive primary care, social services and internal programs – all under one roof – we support the overall good health of our patients and build a stronger, healthier community.

### **About Massachusetts Hospital Association**

The Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization comprised of hospitals and health systems, related organizations, and other members with a common interest in promoting the good health of the people of the Commonwealth. Through leadership in public advocacy, education, and information, MHA represents and advocates for the collective interests of its members and supports their efforts to provide high quality, cost effective and accessible care.