

# PRESS RELEASE



## **Maryland Community Health Resources Commission Awards \$200,000 to Primary Care Collaborative of Stone Run Family Medicine, The Open Table and CHADIS.**

**Funding from the Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) will Launch a Two-Year Pilot to Integrate Community Social Capital at the Primary Care Level as a Support Solution for Patients with Complex Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Challenges.**

(Cecil County, Maryland) Primary care practices represent a healthcare infrastructure for assessing and addressing patient barriers to social determinants of health (SDOH). As patient centered, relationship-focused organizations in local communities, primary care practices are able to assess and then refer patients to community safety net services. However, those patients with complex, co-occurring needs, including chronic illness, poverty, isolation and/or poor mental health, need a broader array of social supports. Primary care practices are positioned to assess and help patients access supports, but require an effective and cost-efficient delivery system.

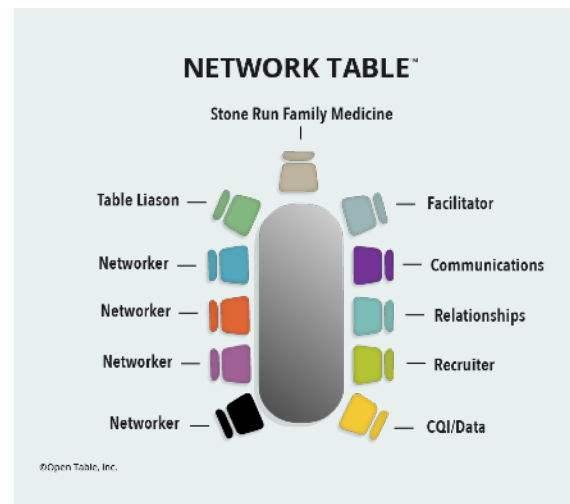
*“As we continue to increasingly assess SDOH on our patients, the need becomes greater to find ways to truly help patients overcome the barriers they have to getting well, and staying well.”* says Joe Weidner, Jr MD of Stone Run Family Medicine.

Community social capital – the skills, experiences and social networks of residents – is a sustainable, untapped reservoir of resources that extends beyond basic services. To help overcome patient SDOH barriers through these robust community supports, Stone Run Family Medicine will integrate The Open Table’s Network Table model and training into its practice and patient engagement process as part of the two-year pilot project.

*“Many primary care practices are implementing advanced care processes to better manage the care of their patients throughout the state of Maryland.” says Dr. Weidner. “This pilot is designed to understand how well this process helps our patients, and also to replicate it for other practices to utilize.”*

Recruitment of eligible patients will occur through standardized SDOH screening tools, utilizing motivational interviewing techniques supported by a CHADIS web-based tool. Those identified with SDOH needs, barriers to care, and/or high health care utilization will be referred and incorporated into Network Tables of mutually supportive networks of volunteers, who will utilize their own social capital to facilitate change on a longitudinal basis.

A Network Table is a team of ten volunteers trained to access, through a structured process, social capital to link supports, including goods, services and relationships with patients referred by Stone Run Family Medicine and Clinica Medica Primaria de Rising Sun to overcome a barrier to care. Ten trained volunteers each with just twenty family members, friends and coworkers represent a network of 200 people. If those 200 each have 20 contacts of their own, a community network of 4000 people is accessible. Social media further multiples the reach of this network to thousands of people and their resources.



*“Human beings flourish when they have access to social capital,” explained Jon Katov, CEO and Founder of The Open Table. “It eliminates barriers and empowers individuals and families to develop well-being. Communities need tools to develop the transformational value of their social capital and make it accessible. This Stone Run Family Medicine pilot project and the Network Table model unite the patient, practice and community in a shared purpose and outcome.”*

*“We know that in order to significantly improve the health and well being of Marylanders we will need to engage our primary care providers and give them the resources to address both the medical and social needs of those they serve.” says Howard Haft, executive Director of the Maryland Primary Care Program. “Dr. Weidner continues to be a leader in the Maryland Primary Care Program in this effort. The CHRC grant will provide him with additional resources and serve as a further example of the importance of addressing the Social Determinants of Health in collaboration with community resources. We congratulate Dr Weidner on this accomplishment.”*

*“The Community Health Resources Commission congratulates Stone Run Family Medicine in receiving their first grant from the Commission,” commented Mark Luckner, CHRC Executive Director. “We look forward to working with Dr. Weidner and his team as they implement this important program.”*

## About

**Stone Run Family Medicine** has been providing a wide range of primary care services for the past 19 years in Cecil County, Maryland. [www.stonerunfamilymedicine.com](http://www.stonerunfamilymedicine.com) They provide ongoing support for the Clinica Medica Primary de Rising Sun, a 501(c)3 charitable clinic meeting the language, financial, accessibility and transportation barriers of the local Spanish community. [www.clinicarisingsun.org](http://www.clinicarisingsun.org)

**The Open Table**, a 501 (c)3 non-profit corporation, has trained a continuum of its models and processes in 30 states to support solutions for the complex needs of people and social challenges. In the healthcare sector, Open Table is innovating the use of community relational and social capital as an access point for social determinants of health. Open Table models are implemented by many sectors: business, government, education, faith communities, social service agencies and others. [www.theopentable.org](http://www.theopentable.org)

**CHADIS** provides a patient data collection system for comprehensive health and mental health care for all ages. CHADIS's web-based tools will help identify SDOH and barriers to care, incorporating patient-specific motivational interviewing support for primary care providers and resources for patients as well as triggering referral messages to Open Table and other local resources and tracking outcomes assisted by quality improvement metrics. [www.chadis.com](http://www.chadis.com)

**The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC)** was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2005 to expand access to health care services in underserved communities in Maryland. The CHRC is an independent commission operating within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), whose 11 members are appointed by the Governor. Since its inception, the CHRC has awarded 347 grants totaling \$86.8 million, supporting programs in every jurisdiction of the state. These programs have collectively served more than 504,000 Marylanders, and grants awarded by the CHRC have enabled grantees to leverage \$31.7 million in additional federal and private/non-profit resources. <https://health.maryland.gov/mchrc>

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