

## In This Issue: The Road To Value

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Dear Reader,

“Value,” as it turns out, is very challenging to define, since “value” is in the eye of the beholder. How a patient defines value can be dramatically different from how a healthcare provider or system defines it. Payers have yet another definition and set of metrics defining value, and on the global stage, value in per capita healthcare spending versus health outcomes provides yet another definition.

Truly then, the “road to value” is a bit like a bus traveling along with a variety of passengers - each seeking a slightly (or greatly) different goal - yet everyone is inexorably traveling in the same general direction, and no one seems to have a good map upon which all can agree.

A report published in 2012 from the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine), sums up the impetus for this issue of the Journal:

“Although primary care and public health share a goal of promoting the health and well-being of all people, these two disciplines historically have operated independently of one another. Problems that stem from this separation have long been recognized, but new opportunities are emerging for bringing the sectors together in ways that will yield substantial and lasting improvements in the health of individuals, communities, and populations.”

We are pleased to have DHSS Cabinet Secretary Dr. Kara Odom Walker as guest editor of this issue of the Journal. As you will read in her introduction, and in the articles to follow, supporting and enhancing primary care in Delaware is, indeed, a part of the road to finding the value and results we are all seeking in the healthcare system.

As per our custom for theme issues, we take the opportunity to also share peer-reviewed articles of broader interest to the public health, and medical community. In this issue we feature additional articles on nutrition, and social determinants such as homelessness. As always, we welcome your feedback and hope you enjoy this issue of the Journal as much as we have in putting it together!

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