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SundayReview

A Formula for Cutting Health Costs Alaska Natives have something to teach doctors and patients in the rest of the world

o matter what happens to President Obama's health care reforms after the November elections, the disjointed, costly American health care system must find ways to slow the rate of spending while delivering quality care. There is widespread pessimism that anything much can be achieved quickly, but innovative solutions are emerging in unexpected places. A health care system owned and managed by Alaska's native people has achieved astonishing results in improving the health of its enrollees while cutting the costs of treating them.

At a recent conference for health lead-

colm Baldrige award, the foundation has achieved startling efficiencies: emergency room use has been reduced by 50 percent, hospital admissions by 53 percent, specialty care visits by 65 percent and visits to primary care doctors by 36 percent. These efficiencies, in turn, have clearly saved money. Between 2004 and 2009, Southcentral's annual per-capita spending on hospital services grew by a tiny 7 percent and its spending on primary care, which picked up the slack, by 30 percent, still well below the 40 percent increase posted in a national index issued by the Medical Group Manager

municate easily. When a patient calls, the nurse decides whether a face-to-face visit with a doctor or other health care provider is required or whether counseling by phone is sufficient. The doctors are left free to deal with only the most complicated cases. They have no private offices and the nurses have no nursing stations to which they can retreat.

Integrating a wide range of data to measure medical and financial performance. Southcentral's "data mall" coughs up easily understood graphics showing how well doctors and the teams they lead are doing to improve health

Whv listen story

- Evidenced-based generational change reducing family violence
- Over 50% drop in ER visits, Hospital Days, and visits to Specialists
- Significant change in primary care utilization – less visits, more other
- 75-90%ile on most HEDIS outcomes and quality
- Benchmarked data nationally and internationally showing top in class performance in utilization, quality, satisfaction
- Employee turnover rate less than
 12% annualized (very low)
- Customer and staff overall satisfaction over 90%
- Baldrige Award 2011







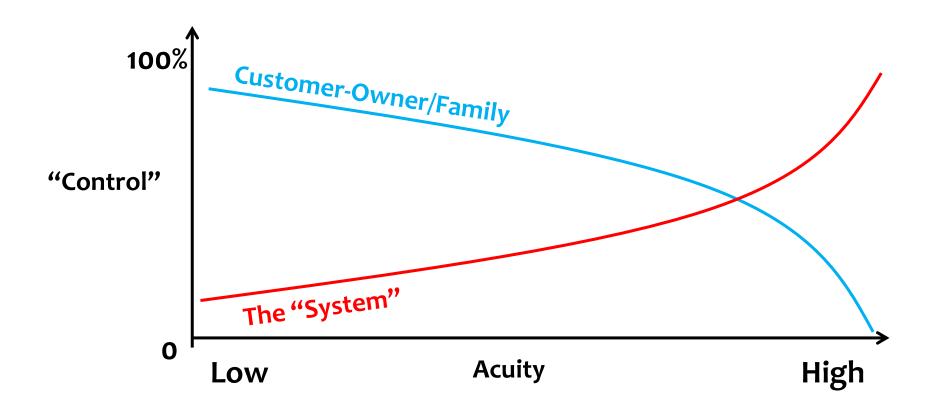
Financial Incentives

- See Everyone in person
- Order Everything
- Give medications, procedures, interventions
- Send to lots of specialists
- Optimizing Protocols/Pathways
- ED and Hospital
- Third Party Payer
- Coverage for Everyone
- Mechanical Understanding of 'Illness'





Who really makes the decisions?









Operational Principles

Relationships between customer-owner, family and provider must be fostered and supported Emphasis on wellness of the whole person, family and community (physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness)

Locations convenient for customer-owners with minimal stops to get all their needs addressed

Access optimized and waiting times limited

Together with the customer-owner as an active partner

Intentional whole-system design to maximize coordination and minimize duplication

Outcome and process measures continuously evaluated and improved

Not complicated but simple and easy to use

Services financially sustainable and viable

Hub of the system is the family

Interests of customer-owners drive the system to determine what we do and how we do it

Population-based systems and services

Services and systems build on the strengths of Alaska Native cultures





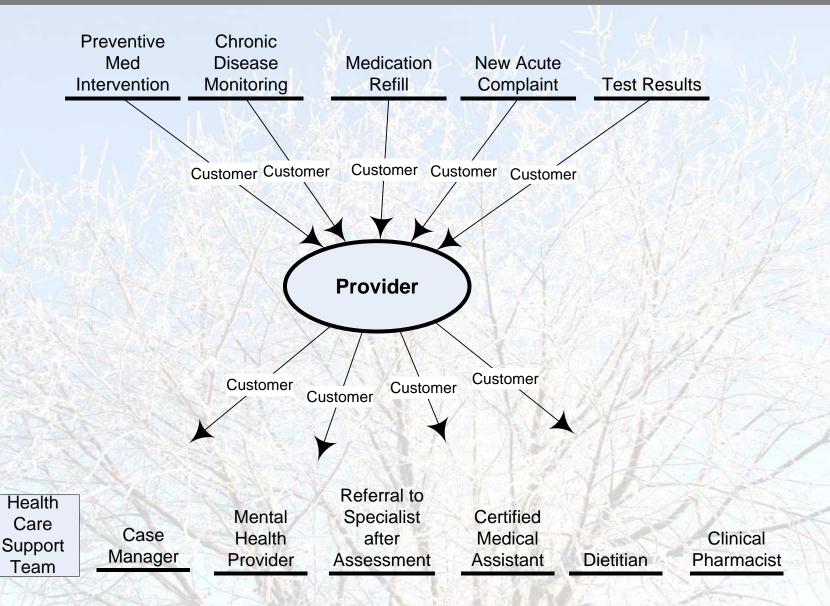




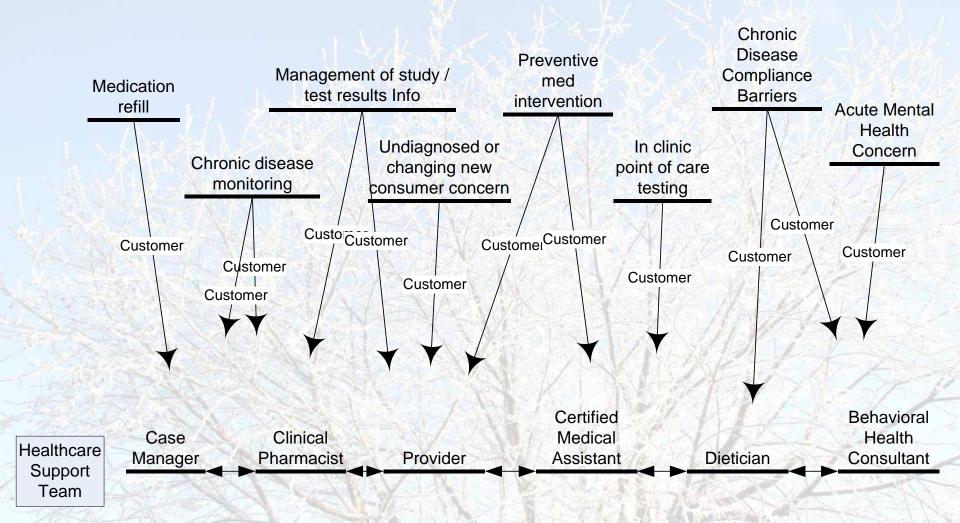




Traditional Work Flow Method



Parallel Work Flow Redesign





Financial Impacts

- Far less visits
- Far less specialty referrals
 - Specialists as supportive consultants
- Willing to 'live with it' for a few days before testing and intervening
 - Less Cost
 - Less Overuse that results in resistance, tolerance, overreaction, exposures
- Way less ED and Hospital and Procedures





Sustained Improvements

50

40

60

% Reduction in ER visits

% Reduction in hospital days

% Reduction in specialty visits

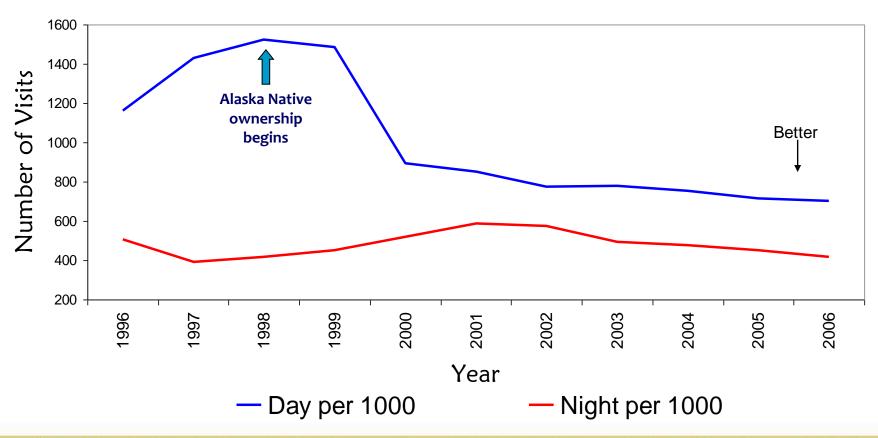
Sustained Improvements

93

93

% Employee Satisfaction % Customer Satisfaction

Anchorage Area Patient Visits to ER/Urgent Care Per 1000

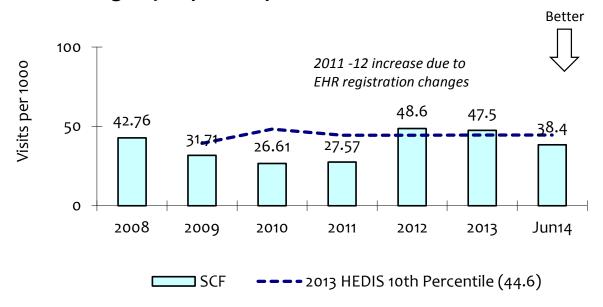






Emergency Department Utilization

Emergency Dept Visits per 1000 Member Months

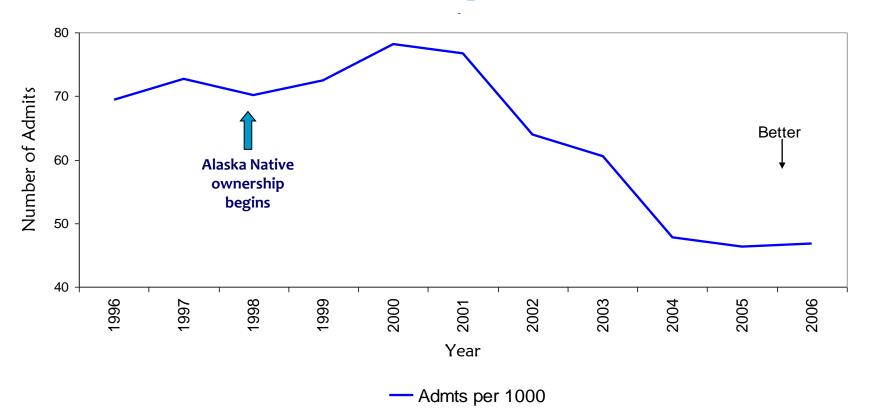


Beginning in 2008 Benchmarking to HEDIS





Anchorage Area Patients Admits per 1000

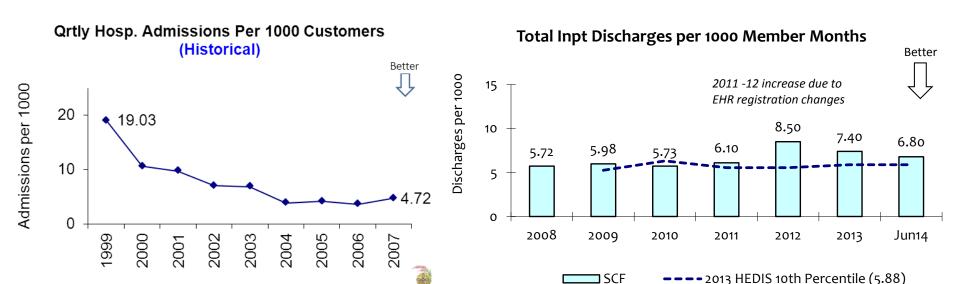


Excludes Newborns and Delivery Moms and Length of Stay must be more than 1 day





Inpatient Utilization

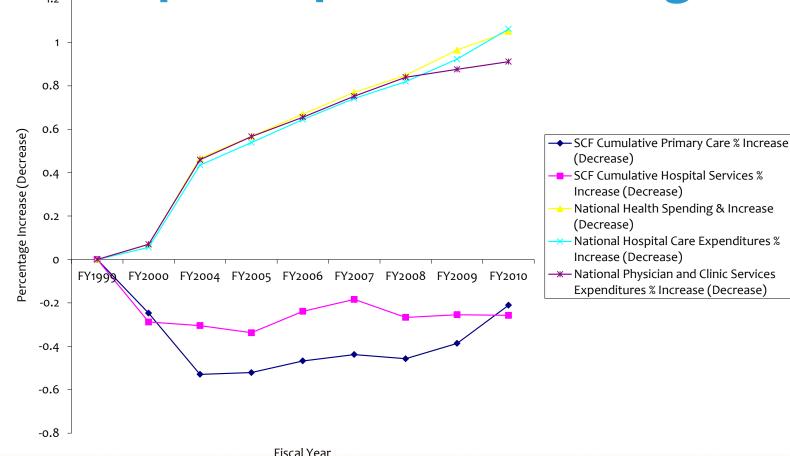


Beginning in 2008 Benchmarking to HEDIS





Southcentral Foundation Cumulative Per Capita Expenditure Changes







The Emerging Future

- Direct to Consumer video visits, health monitoring devices, on demand consultants, robotics
- Distill Healthcare to the basics Relationship, Advice,
 Information Management, Procedures
 - Smart Phone is Relationships and Information Management and Advice (decision support)
 - Technicians and Robots Procedures
 - Long Term Care Campuses









Thank You!

Qaĝaasakung Aleut **Quyanaq** Inupiaq 'Awa'ahdah

Eyak

Mahsi'

Igamsiqanaghhalek

Háw'aa

Gwich'in Athabascan

Siberian Yupik

Haida

Quyana Yup'ik T'oyaxsm

Tsimshian

Gunalchéesh

Tlingit

Tsin'aen

Ahtna Athabascan

Quyanaa

Alutiiq

Chin'an

Dena'ina Athabascan



