

## **FirstCare Health Plans Announces New CEO**

**AUSTIN, Texas** (February 23, 2012) – Today, officials at FirstCare Health Plans announced that their board of managers has named Darnell Dent as the new president and chief executive officer, effective March 30. Dr. Markus Mueller has served as interim CEO.

Dent brings with him more than 20 years of senior-level executive experience in both the public and private health care sectors. He is currently the executive director for Medicare Special Needs Plans at UPMC Health Plan, a provider-owned health insurer serving nearly 1.6 million members in Western Pennsylvania.

“We completed an extensive, nationwide search and are confident we have found the right leader at the right time,” said Board Chair Richard Parks. “With the recent Medicaid expansion, Darnell’s expertise in government programs will be a tremendous asset to our organization. We appreciate Markus Mueller’s leadership as interim CEO while guiding FirstCare through this transition.”

Last August, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission awarded FirstCare a contract for Medicaid STAR and CHIP managed care services in the Lubbock Service Area. FirstCare was also awarded a contract for STAR managed care services in the MRSA West Texas Service Area, which is expected to increase FirstCare’s membership by 45 percent.

“We are excited that Darnell is joining FirstCare,” said Mueller. “He is a visionary leader and we look forward to working with him on the strategic direction of the company.”

Prior to his appointment at UPMC, Dent was an executive director at AmeriChoice, a UnitedHealth Group company, and CEO for Community Health Plan in Seattle. Before joining Community Health Plan, Dent served as president and CEO of QualMed Health & Life Insurance Company and its subsidiary company, Health Net Life Insurance Company for six years. Additionally, Dent has held several executive positions with Lincoln National Managed Care Group, a division of Lincoln National Life Insurance.

“This is an exciting time for FirstCare, said Dent. “With the support of the community and a reputation for providing excellent service and affordable care, FirstCare is poised for substantial growth. I am honored to be part of the company’s future and ready to lead FirstCare on a path of continued success.”

Dent received a master’s degree in public administration from Pepperdine University and a Bachelor of Science degree from Norfolk State University. Dent also served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. He is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE) and the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), and is the past board chair of the Association of Community Affiliated Plans.

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### **About FirstCare Health Plans**

*FirstCare Health Plans was born & bred in Texas and we are extremely proud of that heritage. FirstCare is owned by two highly respected religious-based health systems – Covenant Health Systems in Lubbock, Texas and Hendrick Health Systems in Abilene, Texas. We were founded in 1985 and now serve the health insurance needs for approximately 132,000 members. Our goal is to provide the highest quality health care services at a reasonable price. We believe that health care should be within the reach of all Texans, and we work hard to provide flexible plans that suit their needs.*

- ★ *FirstCare provides comprehensive health care services to HMO subscribers and their enrolled dependents within their approved service area.*
- ★ *FirstCare also owns Southwest Life & Health Insurance Company (SWL&H), which offers the FirstCare PPO product.*
- ★ *FirstCare Administrative Services adds to our portfolio by providing self-funded services.*

*Our corporate headquarters are located in Austin, Texas. We also have offices in Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock and Waco. For more information, please visit [www.firstcare.com](http://www.firstcare.com).*

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