The central purpose of the 2017 Regional Health Summit, sponsored by Cabell Huntington Hospital, Inc., was to strengthen strategic efforts across health care, public health and community organizations to improve health, wellness and prevention efforts by enhancing multi-sector collaboration at a regional level. Summit objectives included identifying common challenges and opportunities facing the region; sharing of best practices and innovations that demonstrate success and promise for health improvement, innovation and transformation; and engaging health stakeholders in crafting regional solutions to shared challenges.

A key focus of the Summit was to engage participants in discussion on challenges and opportunities around:

- Enhancing access to care and services;
- Improving outcomes for chronic conditions and integration of services for behavioral health/substance abuse; and
- Using health information technology, data analytics, and telehealth tools to improve population health outcomes.

To accomplish this, the Regional Health Summit brought together over 150 health care and public health professionals, nonprofit and academic partners, state governmental officials, and elected officials as key stakeholders representing more than 40 organizations from 21 counties in the tri-state region of Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. Speakers included national, state and local partners and experts on community engagement, improving health outcomes, and current health care trends in health care service delivery. Prior to the meeting, a Steering Committee of regional stakeholders convened by Cabell Huntington Hospital led planning efforts.

Opening remarks on the first afternoon of the meeting were provided by Kevin Fowler, President & CEO of Cabell Huntington Hospital, WV Senator Joe Manchin and WV Congressman Evan Jenkins. Keynote speaker presentations were then provided by Bruce Behringer, previously of the Tennessee Department of Health, on ‘A New Way of Thinking About Health: Changing How We Change’ and Rev. Gary Gunderson of Wake Forest Medical Center in North Carolina on ‘Aligning, Leveraging, and Mobilizing Assets: Becoming Deeply Accountable for What is Possible’. The day concluded with a networking reception for attendees.

On the second day of the Summit, Kevin Fowler and WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) Cabinet, Secretary Bill J. Crouch. Presentations then included two panel discussions, as attention was turned to state and regional healthcare trends from the provider and payer perspectives. Moderated by Dr. Hoyt Burdick of Cabell Huntington Hospital, provider panelists included Dr. Michael Canady, Holzer Health System; Dr. Brian Gallagher, Dean of the Marshall University School of Pharmacy; Dr. Michael Kilkenny, Cabell-Huntington Health Department; Dr. Joseph Shapiro, Dean of the Marshall University - Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine; Dr. Daniel Snavely, Huntington Internal Medicine Group; and Bob Whitler, Charleston Area Medical Center. The payor panel, moderated by Gene Preston of Cabell Huntington Hospital included Dr. James Becker, WV Medicaid and Marshall Health; James Fawcett, Highmark WV; Deputy Secretary Jeremiah Samples, WV DHHR; and Todd White, Aetna, Inc. The morning concluded with presentation by Dr. Teresa Cutts of Wake Forest School of Medicine in North Carolina on ‘Measuring What Matters: Driving Trends & Regional Health Outcomes’. 

www.regionalhealthsummit.org
The afternoon portion of the Summit included breakout sessions, allowing participants to select one of the following topic areas to attend: access to care, behavioral health and substance abuse, chronic disease, or data and technology. Within each breakout session the following were identified for the topic area: what is working, what is not working, what is needed, and three actionable next steps. A final plenary session was held at the end of the day where representatives from each breakout group provided a summary for their breakout group. The Summit then concluded with Kevin Fowler providing summary remarks bringing together key messages and an overview of next steps, as the end of the Summit is considered not the end, but the beginning of regional collaboration to improve health outcomes.

**Next Steps**

The Regional Health Summit is open to any individual interested in participating in regional health improvement collaboration, including but not limited to health care or public health professionals, nonprofit organizations, community partners, academic partners. Four regional workgroups focused on access to care, behavioral health and substance abuse, chronic disease, and data & technology will begin meeting soon. To learn more about Regional Health or to join please email regionalhealthsummit@gmail.com or go to www.regionalhealthsummit.org