

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Elderwood Partners with VNS Health



Jon Harris, Feb 29, 2024

Elderwood Health Plan, a managed long-term care plan that serves residents of Erie, Niagara, Monroe, Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming counties, has entered into an agreement with VNS Health.

Under the partnership, managed long-term care plan members from Elderwood will have the option to transfer to VNS Health or choose another managed long-term care plan in the area.

While Elderwood Health Plan is scheduled to cease operations as a managed long-term care plan as of May 1, Elderwood will continue to play a role in the care of homebound older adults and people with disabilities through the recent formation of an Independent Practice Association.

Through that IPA, Elderwood will manage the care of its former members who enroll in the VNS Health managed long-term care plan in addition to any new and existing VNS Health members who live in Erie, Niagara, Monroe, Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming counties.

Under the agreement between Elderwood and VNS Health, VNS Health's managed long-term care plan will automatically bring on any of the roughly 1,200 members now enrolled in the Elderwood plan who do not choose to join another managed long-term care plan during the election period.

The transition comes after a change in state requirements set in the 2023-24 state budget, which required all managed long-term care plans to have a Medicare Advantage Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan.

It is the same requirement that led Fallon Health Weinberg, a partnership between Massachusetts-based Fallon Health and Weinberg Campus of Getzville, to [close its Managed Long-Term Care plan](#), which affected 31 employees who were let go between Dec. 15 and Jan. 12.

"Elderwood is excited to find a partnership in VNS Health, and believe this will benefit our members," said Dr. Jeffrey Rubin, co-owner and co-president of Elderwood Health Plan.

"VNS Health understands the importance of our Western New York community and keeping a local presence through Elderwood," Rubin said. "We share the same values of putting our members, community and employees first, and are excited to pursue this new opportunity."

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