



## **NKCA Makes Commitments to Increase Transplant Announced at White House Organ Summit**

**June 13, 2016**

Today, the Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance (NKCA) and its members announced commitments to reduce the kidney transplant wait list by launching initiatives to increase awareness and access to transplant for people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end stage renal disease (ESRD). These commitments, announced at the White House Organ Summit, build on NKCA's belief that transplant is the optimal therapy for patients with kidney failure in order to improve life expectancy, increase quality of life. As nonprofit dialysis providers serving over 20,000 patients at more than 280 clinics in 30 states, NKCA member companies have the unique opportunity to educate and counsel patients on their treatment options regarding transplant and maximize the opportunity of receiving a kidney transplant. We believe that by counseling patients early on their treatment options, patients will get on the wait list sooner and are more likely to receive a pre-emptive transplant.

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NKCA's Commitments (included below) were included in the White House Fact Sheet on Organ Donation and three of NKCA's member companies were highlighted and participated in the White House Organ Summit.

The Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance (NKCA), through its member companies, pledges to launch new programs to increase access to transplant for more than 4,000 chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients.

- Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI) will increase access to pre-emptive transplant by expanding the REACH Kidney Care program to 27 communities in 17 states, offering this service to 2,500 patients with less than 30 percent kidney function. DCI's goal is that by next year, 11 percent of its patients who need a transplant will receive one preemptively - quadruple the current national number.
- Northwest Kidney Centers (NKC) is investing \$250,000 to launch its new CKD Patient Navigation Service to help patients move toward transplant through individualized assistance from a registered nurse. Also NKC will expand access for patients in rural areas via K View, a new \$400,000 teleconferencing system to be fully operational in summer 2016 to increase education and awareness about access to information on transplantation. Through this investment, NKC commits to a five-year goal to increase the transplantation rate among its dialysis patients by one third, bringing the annual rate of its dialysis patients who get a transplant to 10 percent, which is twice the current national average.
- The Rogosin Institute will launch a program this summer with 100 community volunteers to promote kidney transplantation through culturally-specific grassroots education and mobilization in

high disease-burden areas of Brooklyn, New York. Rogosin's Center for Health Action and Policy will also convene a national roundtable in the fall of 2016 to generate pilot projects to expand access to transplant that will be tested in each of Rogosin's eight centers and in the communities of national partners. Results from both programs will be disseminated nationally. Rogosin's goal is a thirty percent increase in patient transplants over the next twelve months and the creation of a replicable model that advances transplant and reduces disparity.

- The Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration of Northwest Kidney Centers (NKC) and the University of Washington, will launch its new Center for Dialysis Innovation with the mission of keeping individuals on dialysis healthier and better candidates for transplant. With an investment of \$1.2 million from NKC, the Institute's Center will launch "Blue Sky" projects to revolutionize dialysis technology using biomaterials and bioengineering.