



Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform Names Members of Advisory Task Forces

Denver, Colo., June 22, 2007 – The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform has named 65 individuals from around the state—from 360 applications—to participate on four Advisory Task Forces to the Commission.

The Task Forces—encompassing Business, Providers, Rural Communities and Underserved Populations—will provide focused input to the Commission on the proposals being evaluated and a fifth proposal to be developed by the Commission.

“We’ll look to the Task Forces to shine the light of real-world experience on the proposals under consideration,” said Commission Chair Bill Lindsay. “For example, how would a self-insured employer, who is not subject to state regulation, view some of the proposals being considered? What kind of benefit package is acceptable to a person living with a disability? This is a level of understanding that technical analysis can’t offer.”

In their selection process, commissioners strove to achieve broad geographic representation, a diversity of backgrounds and experiences, and a mix of direct service users, service providers and policy experts.

“This was a tremendously difficult choice,” Lindsay noted. “We had an embarrassment of riches, and couldn’t have gone wrong regardless of whom we chose.”

List of Task Force Participants

Business Task Force

Dick Allison (Western Slope – Retired insurance executive, board member – Club 20)

Les Berkowitz (Metro Denver – Attorney, active in health policy issues)

Kelly Esselman (Metro Denver – Human Resources Services Group-Mountain States Employers Council)

Laurie Harvey (Metro Denver – Executive Director, Center for Work, Education and Employment)

Jim Hertz (Metro Denver – Chairman, Alumni Consulting Group Int’l; member, health care committee, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce)

Bill Jensen (Central Mountains – President, Vail Associates)

Steve Krell (Colorado Springs – Vice President, Imaging Systems; member, NFIB and Colorado Consumer Insurance Council)

Tim Marquez (Metro Denver – Owner, The Laughing Bean Cafe)

Edgar Sanchez (Longmont – CEO, Spanish Communications)

Diane Schwenke (Western Slope – President, Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce)

Dwayne Stephens (Metro Denver – Board Chair, Colorado Sheet Metal Workers’ Local 9)

Paul Tate (Metro Denver – Senior VP/CFO, Frontier Airlines)

Gena Trujillo (Boulder – Director, Benefits Administration, University of Colorado)

Dave Westerlund (Metro Denver – EVP-Administration, Ball Corporation)

Nathan Wilkes (Metro Denver – Founder/President, Headstorms, Inc.)

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Rural Task Force

Jack Berry, MD (Wray – Physician, board member-Colorado Medical Society and COPIC Insurance, expert on workforce issues)
Sue Birch (Steamboat Springs – Executive Director, Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Assn.)
Jan Carroll (Gunnison – Certified Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse Midwife)
Ron Davis (La Junta – Executive Director, La Junta Economic Development)
Bern Heath (Durango – CEO, Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center)
Matt Heimrich (Ordway – Chair, Action 22/Healthy 58)
Steve Holloway (Denver – director of statewide public health programs, Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment)
Steve Hurd (Grand Junction – Executive Director, Marillac Clinic)
Russ Johnson (Alamosa – CEO, San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center)
Cindy Lau (Pueblo – Executive Director, Step Up oral health program for Medicaid recipients)
Kristy Reuss (Grand Junction – Professor, Mesa State College School of Nursing)
Steve Reynolds (Glenwood Springs – small business owner)
Ricardo Velasquez, MD (Alamosa – Medical Director, Valley-Wide Health Systems)
Sara Will (Vail – Director, Access Vail Valley)
Kathryn Winkelman (Limon – Teacher, Limon Middle School)

Provider Task Force

Jandel Allen-Davis, MD (Metro Denver – Associate Medical Director, Kaiser)
Jacqueline Brown, RN (Lamar – Director, Prowers County Public Health Nursing Service)
Mark Earnest, MD (Metro Denver – Associate Professor of Medicine, practicing physician, health policy expert)
Sue Hanson (Fort Lupton – Dental Hygienist, Salud Family Health Centers)
Donna Kusuda (Metro Denver – VP Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, HealthONE)
David Lack (Metro Denver – Executive Director, Clinica Tepeyac)
Barry Martin, MD (Metro Denver – Vice President, Metropolitan Community Provider Network)
Don Murphy, MD (Metro Denver – Geriatrician)
Jennifer Nate, MSW (Metro Denver – Hospice of Saint John)
Barry Rosenberg (Western Slope – President, Personal Assistant Services of Colorado)
BJ Scott (Colorado Springs – President/CEO, Peak Vista Community Health Centers)
James Todd, MD (Metro Denver – Pediatrician, medical home expert)
Karen Tomke, FNP (Ordway – Family Nurse Practitioner)
Jay Want, MD (Metro Denver – President and CEO, Physician Health Partners)
Barbara Zind, MD (Grand Junction – Pediatrician)

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Vulnerable Populations Task Force

NOTE: Because of the many and varied constituencies that come under this heading, the Commission agreed to increase the number of participants on this task force to 20

Irene Aguilar, MD (Metro Denver – Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, consumer)

Jan Bach (Metro Denver – Adams County Community Development Advisory Board, consumer/parent-children’s mental health)

Kraig Burleson (Metro Denver – CEO, Inner City Health Center)

Mitch Garcia (Alamosa – Director, Farmworker Services, Valley-Wide Health System)

Regina Hathorne (Metro Denver – consumer activist, breast cancer awareness)

Velveta Howell (Metro Denver – Director, Office of Civil Rights, US Dept. of Health and Human Services)

Jim Hudson (Metro Denver – consumer, veterans advocate)

Frank Kim (Metro Denver – CEO, Asia-Pacific Development Center)

Njeri Kingangi (Metro Denver – Client Advocate, Brother Jeff’s Community Health Initiative)

Randall Loeb (Metro Denver – formerly homeless consumer)

Carol Meredith (Metro Denver – Executive Director, ARC, parent/consumer-children’s mental health)

John Parvensky (Metro Denver – President, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless)

Arthur Powers (Metro Denver – Managing Director/consumer, The Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Initiative of Colorado)

Diann Rice (Grand Junction – Adult Services Division Director, Mesa County Dept. of Human Services)

Alok Sarwal (Metro Denver – Executive Director, Colorado Asian Health Education and Promotion)

A.W. Schnellbacher (Metro Denver – Legislative Coordinator, AARP)

Robert Semro (Metro Denver – Public Policy Advocate, Alzheimer’s Assn.)

Kelly Stahlman (Metro Denver – Policy Coordinator, Family Voices; parent/consumer-children’s developmental disabilities)

Lucio Torres-Flores (Pueblo – Minority Health Advisory Commission, health disparities specialist)

Troy Lynn Yellow-wood (Metro Denver – Co-Founder, Four Winds Native People’s Survival)

About the Commission

Colorado has 785,000 uninsured residents with nearly 180,000 of them children. Public opinion polls show concern about health care as the top issue for Americans. Coloradans, like most Americans, are anxious for solutions to the rising cost of health care and the growing number of people who cannot afford health insurance.

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform was created by the Colorado Legislature in 2006. The Commission is charged with making recommendations for comprehensive health care reform with the goal of increasing health care coverage and decreasing costs for Colorado residents, with particular emphasis on the issues of the uninsured,

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208 Commission Selects Task Force Members
4-4-4

underinsured, and those at risk of financial hardship due to the costs of medical care. The Commission is required to make final recommendations for comprehensive health care reform to the General Assembly by January 31, 2008

For additional information please contact Edie Sonn at 720-201-7307, Anita Wesley at 303-837-8466, ext. 137 or e-mail the Commission at 208commission@coloradofoundation.org

Follow the work of the Commission at www.colorado.gov/208commission.

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