

LARIMER COUNTY DIRECTOR AND DENVER HEALTH PHYSICIAN ELECTED AS NEW LEADERS OF MEDICAL SERVICES BOARD

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DENVER – September 29, 2009 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Ginny Riley, Larimer County Human Services director, was elected president and Paul Melinkovich, MD, director of Community Services at Denver Health, was elected vice president of the Medical Services Board.

It is the responsibility of the Medical Services Board to adopt rules that govern public health insurance programs including Medicaid, Child Health Plan *Plus* and the Colorado Indigent Care Program. The board is comprised of eleven members with at least one member from each congressional district and no more than six members from the same political party. Members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. It is the responsibility of the Medical Services Board to promulgate the rules that govern the Department's programs.

“The Medical Services Board plays an integral role in health care reform,” says Joan Henneberry, executive director. “The board has the authority to adopt rules that govern Colorado Medicaid, the Child Health Plan *Plus* program and the Colorado Indigent Care Program. The passage of the [Colorado Health Care Affordability Act](#) will increase coverage for almost 100,000 Coloradans and will require a multitude of rules to assure that expansions to coverage are implemented effectively and in the spirit of the Act. County Director Riley and Dr. Melinkovich have what it takes to lead the board in this vital social responsibility.”

Ginny Riley has served as the director of Human Services for Larimer County since 1998. Prior to working for county government, Riley directed community-based, non-profit programs for battered women and low-income single parents. Riley has previously served on the Board of the Larimer County Food Bank, the Fort Collins City Personnel Board, and held an elected position

on the Board of the Health District of Northern Colorado. Riley has served on the Medical Services Board since May 2007.

Dr. Paul Melinkovich has been the Director of Denver Community Health Services at Denver Health since 2007. Prior to that position he was the Director of the Denver School-based Health Center Program at Denver Health. Dr. Melinkovich is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado and a board certified pediatrician who has served as the president of the Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He was recently appointed by Governor Ritter to the Center for Value in Health Care Steering Committee. Melinkovich has served on the Medical Services Board since May 2007.

Board meetings are open to the public and audio is available via the web. Meeting notices can be accessed by visiting the department's Web site, Colorado.gov/hcpf.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The Department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for Colorado's low-income, elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the Department, visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

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