

## **KEY POINTS: HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE DRAFT BILL 10**

### ***Why authorize local governments to include a community health element in their master plans?***

- Doing so is consistent with work already underway to improve the performance of the state's public health systems in accordance with the Public Health Act of 2008. Recommended action steps include: "Local public health agencies [should] incorporate an assessment of their capacity and performance relative to those standards into their community health assessment and local planning efforts."
- With the enactment of Colorado House Bill 2009-1111, the General Assembly recognized there is a shortage of qualified health care professionals in most areas of the state, particularly in rural and low-income communities, and that lack of access to health care increases health inequities in Colorado and increases the overall cost of health care services.
- A growing number of counties, municipalities, and local governments nationwide are recognizing the value of including health care in the comprehensive master planning process.
- By recognizing the importance of accessibility and affordability of health care in a community's development plans, cities and counties can provide a foundation for an increased quality of life for residents of Colorado communities.

### ***Why tie community health planning to population trends?***

- Colorado faces urgent and interconnected problems regarding health care that will only continue as the state's population increases.
- The State Demographic Office of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs estimates the state's population will increase by 40 percent by the year 2035 to 7.8 million people.
- Future demographic projections provide the basis for planning for a community's future health care needs.
- A community's comprehensive plan is a public document that reflects decisions and regulations made by city and county officials and citizens to guide the future physical, economic and social development of that community.
- A community's current and anticipated health care needs are integral components to the physical, economic and social development of that community.

### ***Why explicitly include "health care facilities" and "health care services?"***

- Given the range of health care concerns an individual faces throughout the course of his or her lifetime, it is appropriate to include the full spectrum of types of care a community may need to consider to meet the health needs of its residents both now and in the future.
- Explicitly enumerating types of health care services can act as a *de facto* mechanism to encourage conversation about a community's assessed needs not only to ensure its' citizens needs are met with respect to preventive and wellness, acute, specialty, and other types of medical care, but also to encourage business-development strategies to attract sufficient health care personnel to meet those needs.