

### HEALTH ADVOCATES ALLIANCE

AARP – All Kids Covered – Bell Policy Center – Chronic Care Collaborative – Colorado Academy of Family Physicians - Colorado Center on Law and Policy – Colorado Children’s Campaign - Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved – Colorado Community Health Network - Colorado Consumer Health Initiative - Colorado Medical Society - Colorado Nurses Association – Colorado Progressive Coalition – Colorado Public Health Association – KEENE Research & Development –The Legal Center for People with Disabilities & Older People

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The Health Advocates Alliance, or HAA, is a diverse coalition of consumers, providers, and health care advocates committed to health care for all that is affordable, sustainable, timely, safe, equitable, effective, efficient and patient-centric.

HAA first joined together during discussion of SB 08-217 (Centennial Care Choices) to ensure the inclusion of both consumers and providers in the process. We also recommended appointees to the Centennial Care Choices panel (many of whom were appointed) who we felt would be able to deepen the discussion of critical components of health care reform. Since then, we have continued to work together on significant issues, including developing a common legislative agenda for the 2009 Legislative Session, making comments on national health care reform, and advocating for the passage of SB 09-228 (Increased flexibility of General Assembly to determine use of state revenues).

What makes the Health Advocates Alliance different from other coalitions is that we are not pursuing the interests of our individual organizations, but rather come together with the common purpose of thinking strategically and proactively about moving forward our common goals for health reform. While HAA is a coalition, all members do not sign on to all initiatives. HAA’s regular members include those organizations named above.

#### DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HEALTH CARE

We would like to organize meetings with health care leaders before the next legislative session begins to discuss some foundational health care issues and principles. We believe such discussions can provide some common framework and vocabulary, perhaps even themes and goals, to assist in moving health care legislation ahead productively.

General topics for discussion that relate to Access, Quality, Cost and System Delivery include:

- The role of Medicaid/CHP+
- The private insurance market in the state; risk pooling and cost shifting
- Access to care
- Affordability and adequacy of health care and health insurance
- Cost drivers in the state
- Quality of care initiatives
- The connection between Colorado’s fiscal constraints and health care needs

We hope that exploring these broad topics will allow us all to have deeper and more considered discussion of policy options that have been part of the discussion in recent years such as limited benefit plans; out-of-state purchasing of insurance; a public insurance plan option; prevention incentives; and other issues that will arise. As advocates we would like to work collaboratively with legislators to find the best possible routes for health care reform in our state.

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