

SB06-208 (McGihon/Hagedorn)
The Blue Ribbon Health Care Reform Commission

Background:

The purpose of the Health Care Reform Commission is to study and establish health care reform models for expanding coverage, especially for the underinsured and uninsured, and to decrease health care costs for Colorado residents. The Commission is charged with:

Examining health coverage and reform models “designed to ensure access to affordable coverage for all Colorado residents;”

Soliciting comprehensive reform proposals from interested parties;

Selecting between three and five proposals for in-depth technical assessment by an independent contractor;

Holding meetings around the state to solicit public input; and

Completing a final report with recommendations to the General Assembly by November 30, 2007.

Commission Appointees:

The Commission has 24 members, including eight consumers, eight purchasers who are not health care providers, and eight experts and business leaders. The category of experts and business leaders includes experts in health care and health insurance (including local governments and state government officials and nonprofit organizations); experts in the field of developmental disabilities; health care providers; and members of the insurance industry.

Per SB06-208, appointments were made by five appointing Authorities: Governor Owens, Senate President FitzGerald, Speaker Romanoff, Senate Minority Leader McElhany and House Minority Leader May.

List of Commission Members:

Governor Owens Appointees:

Clarke D. Becker, Executive Director, Colorado Rural Development Council

Carrie A. Besnette, Vice President, The Daniels Fund

R. Allan Jensen, Independent Life Insurance Broker

Joan M. Weber, Benefits Risk Manager, City of Englewood

David F. Rivera, Commissioner of Insurance, State of Colorado

Lisa M. Esgar, Sr. Director, Operations & Finance, Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, State of Colorado

Speaker Romanoff Appointees:

Eric Ammidown, Director of Employee Benefits, Qwest Communications

Elizabeth Arenales, Director, Colorado Center on Law & Policy

Donna Marshall, Executive Director, Colorado Business Group on Health

Arnold Salazar, Colorado Behavioral Health Care Council

Dr. Mark Wallace, MD, MPH, Founder, Northern Colorado Health Alliance

Barbara Yondorf, Senior Program Officer, Rose Community Foundation

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Senate President FitzGerald Appointees:

David A. Downs, Jr. MD,
Julia Greene, SEIU
Grant Jones, Executive Director, Black Church Initiative
Mark Simon, Cross Disability Coalition
Daniel Stenersen, President & CEO, Shalom Park
Steven J. Summer, Executive Director, Colorado Hospital Association

Senate Minority Leader McElhany Appointees:

Steve ErkenBrack, Rocky Mountain Health Plans
Bill Lindsay, President, Benefits Group, Lockton Companies of Colorado, Inc.
Ralph Pollock, Chair, Business Committee on Health Care, CACI

House Minority Leader Appointees:

Christy Blakely, Director, Family Voices
Linda Gorman, Director, Health Policy Center, Independence Institute
Pam Nicholson, Sr. Vice President, Advocacy and Community Partnerships,
Centura Health