

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **PHYSICIANS LAUNCH HEALTH CARE REFORM PARTNERSHIP**

Minneapolis –The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), representing more than 10,000 physicians throughout the state, today announced a new partnership of Minnesota leaders in health care, business, state government, labor, education, and consumer advocacy who have come together to recommend and implement strategies for health care reform.

Healthy Minnesota: A Partnership for Reform will be led by a 26-member steering committee of key leaders, including physicians, employers, legislators, members of the executive branch of state government, and representatives of hospitals, health care systems, health plans, nurses, consumers, and educators.

“We are encouraged by the high level of interest among Minnesota leaders in developing a better health care system for Minnesota,” said David D. Luehr, M.D., president of the MMA. “Last year the MMA proposed the Physicians’ Plan for a Healthy Minnesota. Now it’s time to take the next step and bring all the stakeholders to the table to develop implementation strategies that will win wide acceptance.”

## Physicians Launch Health Care Reform Partnership

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In January, 2005, the MMA introduced "Physicians' Plan for a Healthy Minnesota," a roadmap to providing all Minnesota citizens with affordable insurance for essential health care services and improving the quality of care -- while at the same time holding down rising health care costs. The key features envisioned in the MMA plan were health insurance for all Minnesotans, a strong public health system with an emphasis on disease prevention, systems that support high quality health care, and a health care delivery market focused on value.

Since proposing their reform plan, MMA physician leaders have met with more than 70 groups representing government, health plans, labor, employers, consumers and others to gauge interest in using the physicians' plan as the basis for a broader reform effort.

"Interest in moving forward was high so the MMA has convened the Healthy Minnesota Partnership," said Luehr.

"The steering committee will spend the next year shaping a set of reform proposals, which will probably include recommendations for marketplace and legislative change," said Donald M. Jacobs, M.D., chair and CEO of Hennepin Faculty Associates, a member of the MMA Board of Trustees, and a member of the Healthy Minnesota Partnership steering committee. "Although the MMA plan will be the starting point for our discussion, the wisdom of the other partners will shape the ultimate recommendations for action."

The Healthy Minnesota steering committee will hold its first meeting Wednesday, March

8. Members of the steering committee are as follows:

### **Physicians**

Donald Jacobs, M.D., chair and CEO, Hennepin Faculty Associates

Patricia Lindholm, M.D., Fergus Falls Medical Group

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Noel Peterson, M.D., M.S., president and CEO, Olmsted Medical Center

### **Employers**

Tom Forsythe, vice president, corporate communications, General Mills

Russ Hagen, CEO, Data Recognition Corporation

Robert Snyder, president, Chartwell Benefits, LLC

### **Minnesota legislators**

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester)

Sen. Steve Dille (R-Dassel)

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth)

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (DFL-Rochester)

### **Minnesota Government, Executive Branch**

Cal Ludeman, commissioner, Minnesota Department of Employee Relations

Dianne Mandernach, commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health

### **Hospitals, Health Care Systems, and Health Plans**

Mark W. Banks, M.D., CEO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

Mary Brainerd, president and CEO, HealthPartners

Nancy Feldman, president and CEO, UCare Minnesota

Glenn Forbes, M.D., CEO, Mayo Clinic, Rochester

Lawrence Massa, CEO, Rice Memorial Hospital, Willmar

Richard Pettingill, president and CEO, Allina Hospitals and Clinics

David Tilford, president and CEO, Medica

### **Nurses**

Gordon McArthur, R.N, Assistant Nurse Manager, Abbott Northwestern Hospital

### **Consumer Representatives**

Gary Cunningham, CEO, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center

Steve Hunter, secretary/treasurer, Minnesota AFL-CIO

Jan Malcolm, CEO, Courage Center

Judy Schaubach, president, Education Minnesota

Peter Wyckoff, executive director, Minnesota Senior Federation Metropolitan Region

### **Education**

Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences, University of Minnesota