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WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT — THE BEGINNING OF SUSTAINABLE HEALTH REFORM IN OREGON

Guest Speakers:

Carol Robinson, Interim Executive Director of the Oregon Health Fund Board; and
Ellen Pinney, Executive Director, Oregon Health Action Campaign

Health care reform is on everyone's mind in this legislative session, and this topic increasingly looks like one of the few "good news" stories that may come out of the Capitol in an otherwise dark time for lawmakers.

The Oregon Health Fund Board (OHFB), which the Governor appointed in 2007, spent fourteen months working with hundreds of Oregonians to craft a plan that would simultaneously begin to lower skyrocketing health care costs, improve quality, and expand coverage for Oregon's children and poorest adults.

Representative Mitch Greenlick and **Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson** are chairing the **Health Committees of the House and Senate** respectively, and are now receiving testimony each week on a variety of bills relating to the OHFB proposals for health reform. The scope of this proposed reform is broad and the timeline for full implementation stretches into 2013. One of the legislative centerpieces of this reform is **House Bill 2009**, an evolving proposal that may:

- Establish the new Oregon Health Authority and governing board;
- Create a Quality Care Institute;
- Develop a business plan for an Oregon Health Insurance Exchange;
- Implement processes for streamlining applications for medical assistance and premium assistance programs;
- Set policies to increase reimbursement rates for health services providers participating in medical assistance programs;
- Require more rigorous outreach for, and marketing of, medical assistance and premium assistance programs;
- Restructure the expiring tax on managed care insurance plans; and
- Restructure the expiring hospital assessment while providing additional reimbursement funding for hospitals, managed care organizations and providers, bringing in over one billion dollars in federal funds to Oregon's budget to provide essential health services for the needy.

Join the **Oregon Health Fund Board's interim executive director, Carol Robinson**, and long time **advocate for consumers of health care, Ellen Pinney**, to learn more about the current legislative proposals and how policy makers in Salem may find some good news regarding health care to bring home to their districts.

Their presentations will encompass the concerns of a **broad range of stakeholders**, including those **who deliver care**, those **who insure care**, and those who want the **OHFB to move more quickly** to expand health care coverage to all Oregonians. Oregon is learning how to promote health outcomes, not just pay for health care. Legislators are considering whether to establish a payment reform council and are looking at an "**integrated health home**" bill. They are also viewing proposals that will help consumers of health care understand both cost and quality and how to improve the measures of both over time.

We look forward to your participation in this important community event! For lunch reservations email salemcityclub@aol.com or call 503.589.2975 before noon Tuesday, March 10, 2009. The community is welcomed and encouraged to join us - there is no charge to attend the program at noon. Parking is free. Doors open at 11:30 AM. For more information on this program, and directions to the event, please go to www.salemcityclub.com.

When: Friday, March 13, 2009; 11:40 lunch | Noon Program
Where: Mission Mill Museum-Dye House, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301
Contact: Don Fries, 503.589.2975
Email: salemcityclub@aol.com
Web Site: www.salemcityclub.com