



## **Overview of the Oregon Health Policy Commission**

The 2003 Oregon Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 3653, creating the Oregon Health Policy Commission (OHPC) to develop and oversee health policy and planning for the state. The Commission identifies and analyzes significant health care issues affecting the state and makes policy recommendations to the Governor, the Oregon State Legislature and the state Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR). Additionally, the Commission partners with health care experts and stakeholders around the state to develop projects focused on improving Oregonians' health status and access to effective and efficient health care services.

The Commission is comprised of ten voting members appointed by the Governor. Commission members represent all of the state's congressional districts and bring a rich variety of health policy and health care experience. Four legislators (one representing each legislative caucus) serve as non-voting advisory members to the Commission.

## **OHPC Mission**

The mission of the Oregon Health Policy Commission is to develop and promote policy recommendations to the Governor, the Oregon State Legislature, and OHPR that improve the health of all Oregonians by ensuring access to essential health care and support services, increasing quality and improving outcomes for individuals and society, controlling costs, and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

## **OHPC Legislative Mandate**

- Develop a plan for and monitor the implementation of the state's health policy
- Act as a policy-making body for a statewide data clearinghouse
- Review Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (OHPR) reports
- Provide a forum for discussion of health policy and health care issues
- Identify and analyze significant health policy and health care issues affecting the state and make recommendations to the Governor
- Prepare and submit to the Governor and Legislative Assembly resolutions relating to health policy and health care reform
- Review proposed policy modifications to the state's Medicaid program
- Act as primary advisory committee to OHPR, the Governor and the Legislature

## **OHPC Goal Statements for Improving Oregon's Health Care System**

Oregon's health care system should:

- Assure all Oregonians access to essential health care services
- Produce quality outcomes and information that promote informed decision-making by providers and consumers
- Be adequately financed and efficiently operated to ensure affordability and sustainability
- Encourage healthy lifestyles through education and incentives
- Foster collaboration among public and private entities

## **OHPC Principles for Reform**

- Simplify the system. Unnecessary complexity leads to confusion, cost, and errors
- Invest in prevention. Investing scarce dollars to prevent injury and disease, rather than merely treating it when it occurs, will produce the greatest return
- Manage chronic and catastrophic care. Only ten percent of our population is responsible for 69% of health care costs. To control costs, we need to better manage treatments for the chronically and catastrophically ill
- Align incentives. Consumers and providers must have incentives to make health care decisions that drive quality and control cost
- Increase transparency. Patients, providers, and employers need appropriate information in order to make informed decisions and drive quality through the health care system
- Maintain a broad and strong safety net. Over the past few years, Oregon's safety net infrastructure has been stretched thin
- Achieve access for all Oregonians through rational coverage decisions. To stay within budget constraints, it is better to place limitations on the services covered rather than deny people insurance coverage
- Focus on children. Providing health care to children provides an excellent return on investment



*For more information about the Oregon Health Policy Commission, please contact Gretchen Morley or Jessica van Diepen at (503) 378-2422 or visit us online at the Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research (<http://egov.oregon.gov/DAS/OHPPR>).*