

GIH BULLETIN

Helping grantmakers

improve the health of all people

GRANT
MAKERS
IN
HEALTH

JUNE 21, 2010

NEW GRANTS & PROGRAMS

- **Aetna Foundation** (Harford, CT) awarded a \$331,000 grant to **Engelberg Center for Health Reform at the Brookings Institution** (Washington, DC) to help the center explore innovative approaches to implementing and evaluating value-based purchasing programs to improve the value of health care for health care purchasers. The project will convene a group of experts who will recommend strategic approaches. The project goal is to develop an implementation approach that will improve quality and reduce costs systemwide through the close collaboration of public- and private-sector stakeholders. For more information, visit www.aetna-foundation.org.
- **Archstone Foundation** (Long Beach, CA) announced intended funding for its **Spiritual Care Demonstration Projects**. The goal of these projects is to advance knowledge, develop leadership, identify and test practices to improve the quality of screening and assessing spiritual needs by the palliative care service, and provide quality spiritual care services to patients and families. This funding opportunity builds on the foundation's work started in 2009 that resulted in a National Consensus Conference, which identified recommendations for improving spiritual care. Recommendations from the conference were published in a special report that appeared in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. The foundation will fund up to 10 demonstration projects in southern California to implement

recommendations from that report. Contact: Elyse Salend, 562.590.8655, esalend@archstone.org.

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation** (Lansing) awarded a \$10,000 grant to **Michigan State University** (East Lansing) to study the role that statins play in causing disabling tendon ruptures. Statins are commonly prescribed for individuals with high cholesterol. Although statins are effective in lowering cholesterol, studies show that they also inhibit proteins that are necessary to remodel tendons, making them more prone to injury and ruptures. Funding was awarded through the foundation's **Physician Investigator Initiated Research Award Program**, which provides seed money to investigate important issues related to the health and medical care of Michigan residents. Contact: Ira Strumwasser, 313.225.8706, istrumwasser@bcbsm.com.
- **Connecticut Health Foundation** (CT Health) (New Britain); **Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut** (Meriden); **Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust** (Boston, MA); and **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF)** (Princeton, NJ) **State Coverage Initiatives** have collectively awarded \$615,000 to support the successful implementation of **SustiNet**, Connecticut's health care reform legislation. The grants will allow SustiNet's 11-member board to engage nationally known experts in state health reform, including a researcher and health economist, as well as administrative and other support services. The largest grant comes from CT Health, in the amount of \$300,000. Universal Health Care

GIHNEWS

TERRANCE KEENAN INSTITUTE FELLOWS NAMED

GIH is pleased to announce the inaugural Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy fellows:

Melinda Abrams, *The Commonwealth Fund*; Veenu Aulakh, *California HealthCare Foundation*; Matthew Barnes, *Houston Endowment Inc.*; Allison Bauer, *The Boston Foundation*; Tanya Beer, *The Colorado Trust*; Saba Brelvi, *The California Wellness Foundation*; Phillip González, *Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation*; Anu Gupta, *Johnson & Johnson*; Amy Stringer Hessel, *Missouri Foundation for Health*; Kate Keller, *The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati*; Elizabeth Krause, *Connecticut Health Foundation*; Jacqueline Martinez, *New York State Health Foundation*; Sandra Martínez, *The California Wellness Foundation*; Jasmine Ratliff, *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*; Brenda Solórzano, *Blue Shield of California Foundation*; Kim VanPelt, *St. Luke's Health Initiatives*; Edgar Villanueva, *The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust*; and Rachel Wick, *Consumer Health Foundation*.

2011 ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR SESSIONS

Shape the agenda for the 2011 GIH annual meeting *Creating a Healthier Future for Our Kids, Families, and Communities*. Proposals are due **Thursday, July 8**. For more information, visit www.gih.org.

Foundation of Connecticut awarded \$150,000, and Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust and RWJF awarded \$90,000 and \$75,000, respectively. Contact: Janet Davenport, 203.639.0509.

- **DentaQuest Foundation** (Boston, MA) awarded \$543,315 in grants to support various oral health projects.

University of Maryland Dental School (Baltimore) received a grant for \$219,626 to develop and implement a dental case management pilot in a targeted area of Baltimore, Maryland. The pilot seeks to increase the number of children receiving care; increase the number of children with a dental home; reduce the number of no-show appointments; strengthen patient and provider perception of the importance of oral health to overall health; increase the number of dentists participating in the Maryland Medicaid program; and heighten the awareness of dental issues among case managers. A total of \$218,808 was awarded to **Nova Southeastern University** (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) to develop the **Training in Special Care Dentistry Program**, which will focus on educating case managers on the importance of oral health status to systemic health and provide advanced education opportunities for practicing dentists to provide oral health services for persons with special health care needs who are medically, mentally, or physically compromised. Contact: Kristine Coppola, 617.695.9555.

- **Endowment for Health** (Concord, NH) awarded more than \$87,000 in grants to various organizations for the resources necessary to forward health-related projects that reduce economic, geographic, and social-cultural barriers to health access, and provided support to a variety of health-related nonprofits and policy organizations. Among the grantees are: **Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital** (Colebrook, NH) – \$20,000 to support the **Coos County Hospital Collaborative**, which will focus on sustaining the region’s health care system by exploring multiprovider partnerships; **Health Strategies of New Hampshire** (Concord) – \$10,000 for a project that examines alternative policies for financing uncompensated health

care; **Lamprey Health Care** (Newmarket, NH) – \$4,785 for a conference aimed at raising awareness and improving health behaviors to prevent chronic disease among minority populations; and **Elliot Hospital** (Manchester, NH) – \$4,905 to identify best practices to treat postpartum depression. Contact: Karen Ager, 603.228.2448, ext. 31, kager@endowmentforhealth.org.

- **Greater Rochester Health Foundation** (NY) awarded four grants totaling \$3 million. The foundation awarded \$2.2 million to four local organizations to help more than 23,000 greater Rochester residents manage hypertension. The grantees are: **Rochester General Health System**, **Unity Health Care System**, **Culver Medical Group**, and **Anthony L. Jordan Health Center**. In addition, **Highland Family Medicine** and **Lifespan** were approved for more than \$1 million in funding over a three-year period for activities to address depression. The two projects combined will screen 17,500 people for depression and treat more than 1,700 people using two different models of care. **Friends of the Public Market**, a not-for-profit volunteer organization, received a grant of \$100,000 to develop a marketing plan to increase sales of fresh produce to families receiving food stamps. Families may exchange their food stamps for tokens to purchase healthy food at the Rochester Public Market through an electronic transfer system. Contact: Lynette Loomis, 585.258.1717, lloomis@thegrhf.org.

- **Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City** (HCF) (MO) awarded 27 **Healthy Lifestyles** grants totaling more than \$3.25 million. The **City of Kansas City** (MO) will use a \$244,525 grant to support the Missouri Public Works Department’s efforts to provide leadership to and coordinate project activities with the City Planning, Health, and Youth Advocacy departments and Hickman Mills School District to facilitate policy and behavior change addressing the lack of infrastructure and programs that support a vibrant, active, healthy environment for residents. **El Centro** received \$121,580 to expand the **Health Promotores Program**, which

works with Latinos to participate in weight management programs. A \$200,000 grant to **Harvesters – The Community Food Network** will support its nutrition education and healthy eating programs, **Project Strength** and **Kids in the Kitchen/Kids Café**. Funding will also support a new pilot program called **Teen Eats**. These programs include hands-on cooking lessons, healthy recipes, information about nutrition and nutritious food, as well as teen-focused “hot topics” like body image. Contact: Jennifer Sykes, 816.241.7006, JSykes@healthcare4kc.org.

- **Health Foundation of South Florida** (Miami) approved more than \$1.1 million in grants for local programs focused on increasing access to quality primary health care, healthy lifestyles promotion, preventive health measures, oral health, and other community health needs. Among the grantees are: **Florida Keys Area Health Education Center Program** (Marathon) – \$75,000 to implement a nutrition education program in 10 elementary schools; **Florida Heart Research Institute** (Miami) – \$65,000 to provide cardiovascular screenings, and referrals and linkage to services; **Florida Impact** (Tallahassee) – \$60,000 to increase the capacity of a farmer’s market to serve low-income families; **Boys & Girls Club of Broward County** (Ft. Lauderdale) – \$35,000 to implement a physical activity program at two sites; and **Broward Partnership for the Homeless** (Ft. Lauderdale) – \$30,000 to provide dental care. Contact: Shari Gantman, 305.374.9199.
- **Healthcare Georgia Foundation** (Atlanta) announced \$1.3 million in grants to 14 organizations and programs benefitting the health of Georgians. This funding includes a \$675,000 investment to support the full implementation of the **Georgia Childhood Asthma Management Program** (GCAMP). The five statewide GCAMP grantees are: **Georgia Association for Primary Health Care, Inc.** (Decatur) – \$150,000; **Lowndes County Board of Health** (Atlanta) – \$150,000; **St. Galilee Outreach Ministry, Inc.**

(Sparta) – \$130,000; **Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta-Hughes Spalding** – \$125,000; and **Georgia State University Research Foundation** (Atlanta) – \$120,000. Among the other grantees are: **National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Inc.** (Atlanta) – \$207,000 to assist Healthcare Georgia Foundation in the creation of a statewide Evaluation Resource Center for nonprofit health organizations by providing the expertise of a senior evaluation scientist; and **Medbank Foundation, Inc.** (Savannah) – \$100,000 to expand access to free prescription medications to partner clinics in Chatham and Bulloch counties. Contact: Toni Almasy, 404.688.9005, toni@getavatar.com.

■ **Jewish Healthcare Foundation** (Pittsburgh, PA) awarded a total of \$245,000 to two local organizations. A grant for \$125,000 to **United Way of Allegheny County** will help expand the **Pathways to Careers Fellowship**, which interests students in pursuing health care careers. The foundation awarded \$120,000 to the **Allegheny County Parks Foundation** to develop the South Park Montour Connector Trail. The foundation also established the **EMT Champions Program** to improve emergency medical services, and approved an expanded partnership with counterparts in Israel to improve the quality of patient care in both countries. Contact: Bridget McNie, 412.594.2550, mcnie@jhcf.org.

■ **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** (Battle Creek, MI) launched **America Healing**, a five-year, \$75 million initiative aimed at improving life outcomes for vulnerable children and their families by promoting racial healing and eliminating barriers to opportunities. The program has a strong health component. During the first phase of America Healing, 119 organizations are receiving grants totaling more than \$14.6 million to support community-based healing efforts among racial and ethnic groups. **People’s Grocery** (Oakland, CA) will use funding to support the new **Community Hands** program, which recruits local “ambassadors” to organize healthy food demonstrations and communicate the

needs of the local residents. **Lifelink** (Santa Fe, NM) received funding for its **Beyond Cultural Competency** project, an effort to develop culturally appropriate approaches to serving the mental and behavioral health needs of the Native American youth and families in McKinley County, New Mexico. Contact: Joanne Krell, 269.753.9392, joanne.krell@wkkf.org.

■ **Mat-Su Health Foundation** (Wasilla, AK) awarded nine **Healthy Impact** grants totaling \$845,195 to support local projects that help build and provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles. Among the grantees are: **Co-Occurring Disorders Institute** – \$268,000 to pilot the **Strengthening Families** curriculum as part of its new Family Resource Center expansion; **The Children’s Place** – \$150,000 to expand its facility enabling it to house two new child abuse unit officers; **Chickaloon Traditional Native Village** – \$75,000 to complete construction of a commercial kitchen and meeting facility for an elder nutrition program; and **Covenant House** – \$50,000 to assist with costs associated with maintaining a nurse practitioner on staff. Contact: Elizabeth Ripley, 907.352.2860.

■ **Northern Virginia Health Foundation** (Alexandria) awarded \$712,500 in grants to local nonprofits addressing health and health care needs in northern Virginia. Among the grantees are: **Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc.** – \$75,000 to support this community-based safety net health service provider; **Arlington Free Clinic** – \$75,000 to provide comprehensive health care to low-income and uninsured local residents; **Arlington Pediatric Center** – \$75,000 to provide a medical home offering comprehensive and affordable health care to children through 18 years of age, with family incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; **Northern Virginia Dental Clinic** (Annandale) – \$75,000 to support oral health care services for low-income residents; and **Northern Virginia Family Service** (Oakton) – \$75,000 for its **Multicultural Human Services** program. Contact: Julia Howard, 703.486.5691.

■ **Riverside Community Health Foundation** (CA) awarded more than \$1.1 million in grants to local nonprofits dedicated to improving the health of Riverside residents. Among the grantees are: **The Carolyn E. Wylie Center for Children, Youth & Families** (Riverside) – \$50,000 to screen, assess, and treat children and youth with special needs in the areas of speech, physical, and occupational therapy; **Riverside County Department of Mental Health** – \$193,000 to provide direct primary care services and coordination of mental and physical health for seriously mentally ill individuals who are served by the Blaine Street Mental Health Clinic in Riverside; **American Heart Association** (La Jolla) – \$50,000 to support cardiovascular programs that aim to reduce the risks of heart disease and stroke among the Latino and African-American communities; **Inland Empire Health Plan Health Access** (San Bernardino) – \$500,000 to provide insurance for Riverside children through the **Healthy Kids Program**, a comprehensive health coverage plan for children from birth to age 18 who do not qualify for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. Contact: Ninfa Delgado, 951.788.3471, ninfa@rchf.org.

■ **Sierra Health Foundation** (Sacramento, CA), in partnership with **The California Endowment** (Los Angeles), has awarded more than \$76,000 to eight minority-led nonprofit organizations in its northern California funding region to support organizational capacity building and leadership development activities. The goal of this funding opportunity is to strengthen the capacity of northern California’s minority-led organizations serving communities of color to improve health and quality of life in the region. The eight nonprofits serve a total of 10 counties in the region. Activities supported by this funding include training for boards of directors, executives, and staff to develop leadership and management skills, organizational evaluation, program assessment, strategic planning, and fund development education. Among the grantees that received \$10,000 awards are: **Lao Family Community of Stockton, Inc.**; **Latino Outreach of Tehama County** (Red Bluff); and **Toiyabe Indian Health**

Project, Inc. (Lone Pine). Contact: Katy Pasini, 916.922.4755, ext. 3304, kpasini@sierrahealth.org.

- **Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina** (Columbia) has awarded nine responsive grants totaling \$541,110 to nonprofit and faith-based organizations across South Carolina. Among the grantees are: **Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network** – \$99,400 to assist homeless families in Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, and Pickens; **Winwood Farm** (Awendoaw) – \$45,000 to support the **Kinship Caregiver Navigation and Support** program in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester; **Miss Ruby’s Kids** (Georgetown) – \$75,000 to support programs for children; and **Nurturing Center** (Columbia) – \$35,000 for outreach to children and families in Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Orangeburg, Richland. Contact: Brooke Bailey, 803.254.0230, ext. 18, bbailey@sistersofcharitysc.com.
- **St. David’s Foundation** (Austin, TX) announced that 31 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors in central Texas. **The St. David’s Neal Kocurek Scholarship Fund** provides students with \$6,000 per year for four years, to be used for tuition and other expenses at Texas universities and colleges. Applicants must be graduating seniors within the independent school districts of Travis, Williamson, or Hays counties and in pursuit of health care-related careers. As part of the program, a mentor from St. David’s HealthCare will be paired with each scholarship recipient to provide students with the opportunity to interact directly with professionals in their chosen career. Funds for the scholarships, now in its 26th year, are raised annually from a series of fundraising parties held each spring. In 2010 over \$310,000 was raised for the scholarship fund. In addition, the foundation will match the funds raised for a total of more than \$600,000 given to scholarship recipients. Contact: Lisa Trahan, 512.879.6612, ltrahan@stdaidsfoundation.org.
- **Winter Park Health Foundation** (FL) approved two grants totaling

\$65,000 to improve fitness opportunities for local residents. A \$50,000 grant to **Orlando Community Youth and Trust, Inc.** will help support the design and construction of an urban mountain bike park near Cady Way Trail and Fashion Square Mall. The foundation also awarded a \$15,000 matching grant to **Winter Park High School** to help purchase fitness stations for the community fitness trail located in the southeast corner of Winter Park High School bordering Cady Way Trail, Baldwin Park, and the Orlando VA Medical Center. For more information, visit www.wphf.org.

SURVEYS, STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS

- **The Commonwealth Fund** (New York, NY) released *Rite of Passage: Young Adults and the Affordable Care Act of 2010*, which describes provisions in recent health care reform that will help cover uninsured young adults, who represent one of the largest segments of the uninsured. The report cites young adults aging off of parents coverage upon graduation from high school or college and losing eligibility for public programs upon turning 19 as major contributors to being uninsured. Some of the pertinent provisions outlined in the issue brief include the ability for young adults to enroll in a parent’s health plan up to age 26 beginning in September 2010; significant expansion in eligibility for Medicaid beginning in 2014; and the creation of state or regional health insurance exchanges with subsidized private insurance for people with low and moderate incomes, also beginning in 2014. The issue brief is available on the publications section of The Commonwealth Fund’s Web site, www.commonwealthfund.org.
- **Missouri Foundation for Health** (St. Louis) announced the release of a new brochure that provides plain-language explanations of key of health care reform provisions. *Frequently Asked Questions About Federal Health Care Reform* examines the new law’s impact on Missouri families and businesses, and includes a timeline showing

when key provisions of the law are expected to take effect. The brochure can be used as an educational tool for the public, care providers, legislators, media representatives, faith-based organizations, and others involved in writing and speaking about reform. The brochure was developed through the foundation’s **Cover Missouri** project, which promotes policy recommendations to ensure quality affordable health care for Missouri residents. The publication is available at www.covermissouri.org/facts. Contact: Julie Johnson, 314.345.5580, jjohnson@mffh.org.

AWARDS

- **The Baxter International Foundation** (Deerfield, IL) and the **Association of University of Programs in Health Administration** (Arlington, VA) announced that **Uwe Reinhardt, Ph.D.** has been named the 2010 recipient of the **William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research**. Dr. Reinhardt is the James Madison Professor of Political Economy and Professor of Economics at Princeton University. He has served on a number of government commissions and advisory boards, as well as several editorial boards, including *The Journal of the American Medical Association* and *Health Affairs*. In addition, Dr. Reinhardt is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. The prize recognizes researchers who have made major contributions to public health through innovative research in health services, and it carries a \$25,000 award to the recipients and a \$25,000 gift to a nonprofit institution that supports the prizewinner’s work. Contact: Elaine Salewske, 847.323.8134.

MEETINGS

- **The Colorado Health Foundation** (Denver) is sponsoring the 30th annual **Colorado Health Symposium**, July 28-30, 2010, in Keystone, Colorado. This year’s theme is *Value in Health Care*:

Improving Quality, Controlling Costs. Speakers include Dr. Elliott Fisher of the Dartmouth Institute, former Surgeon General Dr. Richard Carmona, author T.R. Reid, and others who will examine how the health care delivery system can be redesigned to deliver better results at less cost; whether payment reform would drive higher quality, lower cost care; and if disease prevention is actually a cure for what ails American health care. Reduced registration fees are available for Grantmakers In Health Funding Partners and other nonprofit organizations. For more information or to register, visit www.ColoradoHealth.org/healthsymposium.aspx.

ON-LINE

- **The Atlantic Philanthropies** (New York, NY) announced the addition of **Lessons Learned from Health Care Reform** to its Web site. The Web forum includes video highlights from its recent event **The Historic Passage of Health Care Reform in the United States: How Did We Get There and What Lies Ahead.** The discussion also includes insights from health care reform leaders who share what they consider to be the biggest lesson learned from health care reform. The forum can be accessed at <http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/atlantic-events>.

Funders Network on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights (Rockville, MD) announced the development of a toolkit for grantmakers who are interested in information on supporting reproductive justice and its relationship to reproductive health and other issues, such as environmental justice, economic justice, and criminal justice. The on-line resource, which was created by the **Women of Color Working Group**, includes a four-part video series featuring interviews with funders who share insights gained from funding this work. The resource also includes a companion document with frequently asked questions, as well as case studies of organizations that used the reproductive justice framework to make significant advances in policy and other

areas. For more information, visit www.fundersnet.org.

OTHER NEWS

- **The Colorado Trust** (Denver) announced that **The Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics** (RMYC) (Aurora, Denver, and Thornton) received the trust's **2010 Grantee Leadership Award.** The annual award of \$25,000 is made in recognition of exemplary leadership by a current grantee of The Colorado Trust and will be used to support its ongoing efforts to bring medical and dental services to Colorado children and adolescents who would otherwise have no access to care. The RMYC began as a single clinic in 1996, providing 2,000 patient visits per year. The center has since grown into a network of three traditional clinics, two mobile clinics, and 40 community- and school-based settings that provide more than 55,000 patient visits per year, making RMYC one of the largest pediatric safety-net providers in the United States. Contact: Christie McElhinney, 303.539.3147, christie@coloradotrust.org.
- **Irvine Health Foundation** (IHF) (CA) has issued a call for nominations for its inaugural **Irvine Health Foundation Health Prize.** The \$150,000 prize, which honors the foundation's 25th anniversary, recognizes nonprofit organizations that exhibit excellence in their efforts to improve health in Orange County, California. Specifically, the foundation will honor an organization demonstrating extraordinary success, creativity, and innovation in one or more of the following areas: promoting health and wellness; insuring the availability of accessible, quality health-related services; working in the area of health policy; and supporting research designed to develop new knowledge in areas related to health. In addition to the prize, the recipient organization will receive an unrestricted, one-time grant of \$150,000 from the foundation. IHF will also award two honorable mention prizes in the amount of \$50,000 each. More information and nomination forms are available at www.ihf.org. Submissions must be completed and received by IHF no later than midnight July 31, 2010. Contact: Amber Houchen, 949.253.2959, amh@ihf.org.
- **Blue Shield of California Foundation** (San Francisco) named **Peter Long** its new president and CEO. Mr. Long currently serves as senior vice president for executive operations at **The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation** (Menlo Park, CA) where he oversees activities related to U.S. global health policy. Before that, he served as a senior program officer and then director of research and planning at **The California Endowment** (Los Angeles) where he led efforts to provide health coverage to all children in California. Mr. Long will join the foundation in July 2010. Contact: 415.613.8517, msmith@fenton.com.
- **California HealthCare Foundation** (Oakland) announced that **Sam Karp**, vice president for programs, has been appointed cochair of a new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services panel to develop standards to simplify eligibility determination for a range of state and federal programs, including Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and federal subsidies available under the Affordable Care Act. Mr. Karp will cochair the working group with **Aneesh Chopra**, the White House chief technology officer. The group has been tasked with developing recommendations for standards and protocols to facilitate enrollment in these programs. The panel will also make recommendations on how health insurance enrollment can serve as a gateway to other programs, such as food stamps, WIC, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. The group will report its findings to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and its Policy and Standards Committees. Contact: Spencer Sherman, 510.587.3111, ssherman@chcf.org.
- **The Colorado Trust** (Denver) announced the retirement of its president and CEO **Irene M. Ibarra.** Ms. Ibarra has more than 25 years of experience as a

chief executive, public policy leader, and health advocate, and has devoted her career to improving health for low-income communities and to developing policy solutions assuring access to health care. She will continue her work at the trust until a new CEO is appointed.

- **Maine Health Access Foundation** (Augusta) named three new members to its board of trustees. **Frank Johnson** is currently executive director of the Office of Employee Health & Benefits for the State of Maine. In addition, Mr. Johnson serves as an ex-officio member and advisor to the State Employee Health Commission. **Lisa Sockabasin** is director of the Office of Minority Health at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Maine Department of Health and Human Services. She previously worked as a regional epidemiologist in the **Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program** for the State of Maine. **Ted Sussman, MD** has spent 30 years in private practice internal medicine and has continuously staffed a federally qualified health care center. In addition, the foundation appointed one new Community Advisory Committee member: **Arabella Perez**. Ms. Perez is the director of the **Thrive Initiative**, a federally funded system of care providing training and technical assistance to providers, organizations, and communities serving families and youth in the areas of behavioral and mental health. For more information,

visit www.mehaf.org.

- **Public Welfare Foundation** (Washington, DC) announced that its president **Deborah Leff** has accepted the position of deputy counselor for access to justice at the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Leff has been with the foundation since 2006. In her impending position, she will work on an initiative aimed at ensuring that low-income individuals have access to essential legal services. Ms. Leff will start her new position in July 2010. For more information, visit www.publicwelfare.org/newsroom.

- **Paso del Norte Health Foundation** (El Paso, TX) announced the appointment of several new members to the Community/Public Relations Advisory Committee. They include: **Patricia Ayala**, Ysleta Independent School District; **George Drake**, foundation board member; **Ernesto Fernandez**, Varay Systems, LLC; **Steve Fox**, foundation board member; **Elizabeth O'Hara**, KFOX Channel 14; and **Armando Saldivar**, El Paso Department of Public Health. The committee advises the foundation on several matters, including public relations and marketing; strengthening collaboration efforts; and promotion of the foundation's activities, initiatives, and events. Contact: Ida Ortegon, 915.544.7636, iortegon@pdnhf.org.

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