

Consumer Health Coalition
650 Smithfield Street
Centre City Tower, Suite 2130
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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P. 412-456-1877
F. 412-456-1096
www.consumerhealthcoalition.org



Consumer Health Coalition

Annual Report

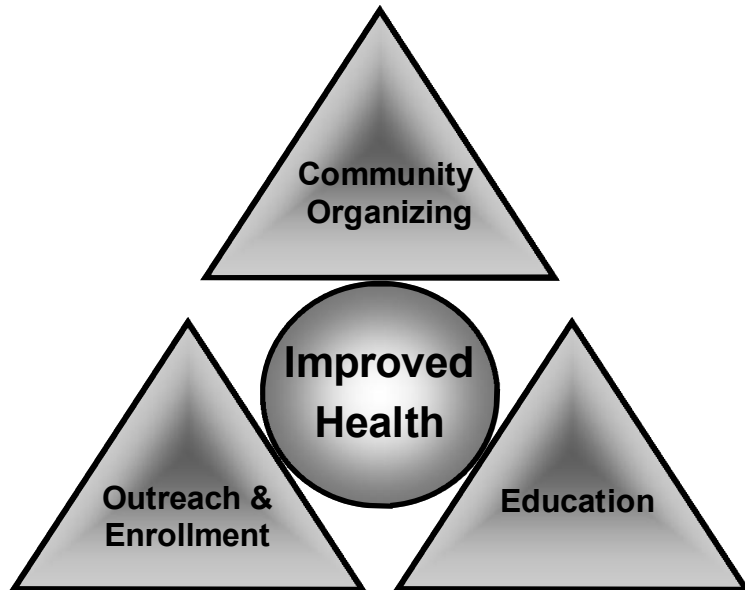


2006

Mission Statement

Consumer Health Coalition's mission is to inspire a consumer movement to enhance access to quality, affordable health care in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

A Three-Pronged Advocacy Approach



Get Involved!

Consumer Health Coalition Membership Form

Name:

Organization:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Dues/ Donation Amount Enclosed:

Please make checks payable to:

Consumer Health Coalition

To learn more about membership in the Consumer Health Coalition, call or write:

Consumer Health Coalition
650 Smithfield Street
Centre City Tower/Suite 2130
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: (412) 456-1877
Fax: (412) 456-1096

Membership Benefits

- Email action alerts (monthly)
- Health Care Access in the News (weekly)
- Quarterly newsletters / Annual report
- Members-only advocacy workshops
- Educational training sessions
- Members-only banquet

Membership Level Annual Dues

Consumer Membership	\$ 5
Supporting Advocate	\$10
Advocacy Leader	\$25
Free CHC T-Shirt with all Advocacy Leader Memberships!	

Organizations with Budgets:

Less than \$500,000	\$150
\$500,000- \$999,999	\$200
Over \$1 million	\$250

Dear Friends,

Last year was a tremendous period of transition and renewal for the Consumer Health Coalition (CHC). Some aspects of change were welcome and exciting - new relationships with consumers and community partners, strengthened collaborations with philanthropic organizations, and the welcoming of a new Executive Director.

Other aspects of our growth challenged our Board to revisit our core principles and clarify our niche in the nonprofit and health advocacy communities. We completed an intensive, four-month strategic planning process to focus our community organizing activities around three areas of focus. The intent is to hone our energy and resources so that we might make a greater difference in the community.

Perhaps the most difficult aspect of the transition was saying good-bye to some long-time and very dedicated Board members as we enforced Board terms for the first time. We are grateful for their leadership and continued guidance and advice.

Most importantly, this renewal period has created a solid foundation for growth for CHC. As health reform has moved to the top of both state and federal legislative agendas, we are now poised to assume a leadership role in the advocacy community. We look forward to the coming years with excitement and optimism as we organize the consumer voice for better health and health care.

Andrea Fox, MD, MPH, Chair



Connecting People to

In 2006, CHC's Outreach and Enrollment Specialist helped over 700 consumers who called for assistance in navigating the health care system. Approximately two hundred of those callers received help in completing applications for public health insurance programs (please see chart on next page). Many of the calls were the result of a referral from one of CHC's 100% Pledge agencies.

100% Pledge partners promise - or pledge - to ask their clients if they have health insurance coverage. CHC educates staff at 100% Pledge agencies about the various public health insurance options. In turn, these staff refer their uninsured clients to CHC for application assistance. In 2006, twelve new agencies took the 100% Pledge.

Birmingham Free Clinic

One of the best ways to reach consumers is to meet them in their own communities. In 2006, Consumer Health Coalition initiated a Latino Outreach Campaign to provide public health insurance enrollment assistance to eligible children and families. CHC attends SALUD, a pediatric clinic at the Birmingham Free Clinic, one Saturday each month to teach families about available public health insurance programs, eligibility requirements, and to begin the application process.

organizational and individual members!

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Harold Cohan | Rebecca Maletto |
| K.J. Collamer | Heather Sedlacko |
| Sharon Conner | Melissa McCoy |
| Andrea Dechellis | Shirley McIlvried |
| Barbara Dickman | Christine Meurer |
| Bruce Dixon | Lois Michaels |
| Linda Doman | Janet Minsterman |
| Tiffany Durish | Arlinda Moriarty |
| Molly Eggleston | Robert Nelkin |
| Joseph Foglia | Cheryl Panfil |
| Nathalie Folch | Karen Peterson |
| Andrea Fox | David Rosenblatt |
| Sandra Fox | Michael Sambroak |
| Susan Freer | Joyce Schlag |
| Cheryl Fu | Maryanne Scrabis |
| Jonathan Han | Jessica Seabury |
| LouAnn Haney | Katherine Seelman |
| Liz Healy | Stella Smetanka |
| Thomas Hollander | Barbara Ann Volek |
| Maxine Horn | Brian Stagno |
| Dick Jevon | Lorraine Starsky |
| James Kindler | Jonathan Stein |
| Bob Kubit | Kenneth Thompson |
| Brenda Lee | Carolyn Vidt |
| Laura Liebman | Jesse Virago |
| Tania Lyon | Kristie Weiland |
| Roslyn Maholland | James Wilde |
| Marie Malagrecia | Holly Winters |

Thank you to all of our 2006

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

American Cancer Society
 Community Care Behavioral Health
 Community Life
 East End Cooperative Ministry
 Every Child Inc.
 Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
 Jewish Healthcare Foundation
 Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute
 Peoples Oakland
 Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
 Radio Information Service
 SEIU Local Union 1199
 Sto-Rox Family Health Center
 The Children's Institute
 Three Rivers Center for Independent Living
 United Cerebral Palsy
 Urban League
 Westmoreland Case Management

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

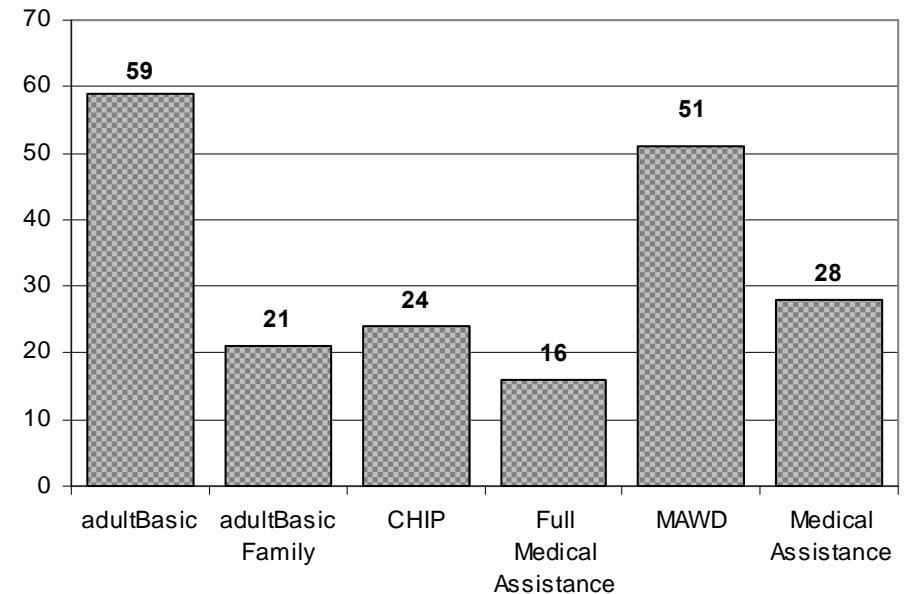
Luwanna Adams	Barbara Breitenstein
Anto Ayinikal	David Brewton
Leslie Bachurski	Terri Brown
William Backa	Mario Browne
Peggy Beem	Rebecca Carpenter
Michelle Boyle	Guy Caruso
Ray Brennan	Jeff Cohan

Critical Health Resources

CHC is dedicated to reducing financial and non-financial barriers to health services. CHC's Outreach and Enrollment Specialist helps consumers throughout the entire application process, from initiating their application over the phone to following-up to ensure that they have renewed coverage. Barriers that are encountered are documented in our MS Access Database.

CHC then transfers lessons learned on the frontlines to broader policy solutions. For example, in December 2006 CHC staff met with the Allegheny County Department of Public Welfare. CHC and DPW began a partnership to help ensure that barriers to care are resolved quickly and that consumers are treated with respect and dignity.

Number of Applications Completed in 2006



Raising Awareness

◆ Email Action Alerts

Action alerts are emailed monthly to inform our mailing list about current health care meetings, events, and related advocacy action steps.



◆ Health Care Access in the News

Health Care Access in the News is similar to a newspaper clipping service. It is emailed to our mailing list on a weekly basis and provides an overview of what is happening in the media and in health care policy.

◆ Quarterly Newsletters

Newsletters are mailed to our mailing list three times per year. They highlight organizational successes and provide notice to our readers about upcoming health care challenges.

◆ Advocacy Workshops

These workshops are for both our consumers and colleagues at other health services organizations. Topics include how to build a relationship with your legislator, presentation skills for public hearings and press conferences, and navigating the legislative process.

Get Involved!

◆ **Become a member of Consumer Health Coalition**
Please find membership information on the following pages.

◆ **Volunteer your services**
CHC is always grateful for the generous help of its volunteers.

◆ **Sign your organization up for a 100% Pledge Training**
Agencies who take the 100% Pledge ask all of their clients if they have quality health coverage. CHC trains agency staff on available public health insurance programs, and serves as a referral source for clients that need application assistance.

◆ **Join the Health Committee for People with Disabilities**
The purpose of the committee is to bring together people concerned with any type of disability - physical, mental, behavioral, developmental, sensory, cognitive, other - and promote access to affordable and accessible health care services.

◆ **Join the Public Health/Healthy Communities Committee**
This broad-based committee advances understanding of public health and its importance, and works to strengthen our local public health infrastructure.

◆ **Don't forget to vote!**



Please call us at 412-456-1877

Staff

(as of December 31, 2006)

Jessica Seabury
Executive Director

Leslie Bachurski
Operations Manager

In March 2007, we welcomed Sally Jo Snyder, Community Organizer for the Health Committee for People with Disabilities

Lynne Pistrutto also completed her 2006-2007 field placement at CHC for the University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work

Board of Directors

(as of December 31, 2006)

Chair

Father Regis Ryan
Sto-Rox Family Health Center

Myrna Zelenitz
East End Cooperative Ministry

Vice Chair

Katherine Seelman, PhD
University of Pittsburgh
Rehabilitation Science

Secretary

John Tague
United Cerebral Palsy

Luwaunna Adams
Consumer representative

Thomas Hollander
Attorney at Law

Michelle Boyle, RN
Allegheny General Hospital

Dick Jevon
NAMI Southwestern PA

Brenda Dare
Three Rivers Center for
Independent Living

Arnette McCoy
Consumer representative

Susan Davis
Every Child Inc.

Melissa McCoy, Esquire
Fox Rothschild

Nathalie Folch, MD
St. Hyacinth Church

Allison Robinson, PhD
Urban League

Andrea Fox, MD
Squirrel Hill Health Center

Joyce Schlag, LCSW
UPMC Presbyterian Hospital

Sandra Fox, LCSW
Psychiatric Social Worker

Sandi Weber
Three Rivers Center for
Independent Living

Treasurer

Board Advisors

Francesca Chervenak, Esq.
Pennsylvania Health Law
Project

Kenneth Thompson, MD
Center for Mental Health Services
SAMHSA

Strategic Planning

In 2006, the CHC Board engaged in a strategic planning process to focus our community organizing activities. The four-month process was very thoughtful and difficult, as there are so many important health issues that need attention! However, the Board felt it was critical to focus our community organizing work both for the health of the community and for our organization.

Moving forward, CHC will continue its critical outreach & enrollment and education initiatives. In addition, the Board decided to concentrate CHC's community organizing initiatives in three specific areas. The strategic planning process established the foundation for targeted resource, staff and programming growth. Most importantly, we hope that focusing our time and energy will allow us to make a greater difference in the community. The following pages highlight our three areas of focus and directions we are growing in 2007.



Health Committee for

In 2006, Consumer Health Coalition collaborated with consumers, other health and human services organizations, the FISA Foundation, and the Staunton Farm Foundation to successfully revitalize our disabilities and health agenda.

CHC's Health Committee for People with Disabilities is unique in that it brings together people with all types of disabilities—physical, mental, behavioral, developmental, cognitive, and sensory. All decisions are made by the Committee members themselves through a democratic process. In other words, every voice counts and counts equally.



In 2006, members of the Health Committee for People with Disabilities developed a statement of purpose: *“To identify and eliminate barriers to quality, affordable health care for people with disabilities throughout life.”*

Join the Health Committee for People with Disabilities!

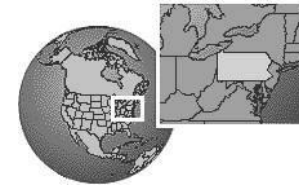
WHEN: Third Wednesday of each month
3:00—4:30 p.m.

HOW: Contact Sally Jo Snyder
(412) 456-1877 x203

New members are always welcome!

Prescription for PA

On January 17, 2007 the Governor released ‘Prescription for Pennsylvania,’ a uniquely Pennsylvanian solution to reform our health care system. Not only did Prescription for PA move health to the top of the Commonwealth’s legislative agenda, but it also allowed Pennsylvania to join the ranks of a handful of states across the United States working to expand access to health care.



In February 2007, CHC’s Board of Directors voted to generally support Prescription for PA, as it encompasses many of our values for health reform. We believe that Prescription for PA is a needed first step toward expanding access to health care, reducing health costs, and improving health care quality.

Prescription for PA is a comprehensive approach to fixing our broken health care system. The portions of the reform package that we most strongly support are:

- Expanding quality, affordable health insurance coverage to all adults in the Commonwealth
- Reforming the health insurance market to prevent discrimination based upon preexisting conditions
- Enhancing patient safety and health care quality
- Controlling health care cost growth
- Balancing the long term living system so that community is an honest choice for people with disabilities.

Resources

Consumer Health Coalition is grateful to the following organizations for support in 2006:

Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation

Birmingham Foundation

Compassion Allegheny/
North Hills Community Outreach

CVS/pharmacy Community Grant

FISA Foundation

Mellon Financial Corporation Fund

National Council on Aging

Neighborhood Cancer Care Cooperative

Public Welfare Foundation

Staunton Farm Foundation

Three Rivers Center for Independent Living

and the generous support
of our Coalition members

People with Disabilities



The members of the Health Committee for People with Disabilities also decided to focus their advocacy activities in three major areas. This process began in March 2006 and concluded in early August 2006. Committee members considered a wide range of very important issues. Ultimately, the members voted for the following three focus areas:

- ♦ **Increase or safeguard public funding (i.e. Medical Assistance) for people with disabilities**
- ♦ **Assure the consideration of both physical and mental health issues in all health care**
- ♦ **Collaborate with and support other organizations in furthering home & community-based services**

Members of the Committee decided to form smaller, working groups around these three advocacy priorities. During workgroup meetings, participants translate their ideas into action. They plan campaign kick-off events, develop messaging, send postcards to their elected officials, and develop patients guides/tools. Members of the workgroups report on their progress to the larger Health Committee for People with Disabilities once a month. In 2006, CHC concentrated on renewing the Committee's infrastructure - now members are moving *(full speed ahead!)* with advocacy activities!



Public Health



The public health infrastructure in Allegheny County is in crisis. In the fall of 2006, seventy out of seventy-five department managers at the Allegheny County Health

Department (ACHD) issued a petition to the Allegheny County Council as a plea for adequate funding in support of the programs, operations, facilities and staff necessary for the Health Department to protect our citizens.

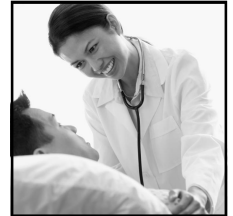
Southwestern PA is also unique in the sense that it is struggling to revitalize itself after the demise of the steel industry. In the redesign of the region, there is strong focus on the economy and jobs. CHC intends to ensure that healthy communities and human capacity are also part of the vision for Pittsburgh's next renaissance.

CHC is organizing an active and engaged constituency that understands the importance of public health, the need to strengthen our public health infrastructure, the importance of sound public health policies, and the need to link health and healthy communities to the redevelopment agenda.



Health Care Quality

CHC has committed to recruiting, engaging and empowering consumers around the need to dramatically improve quality at the point of care. We believe that traditional ways of helping consumers access the health care system are just one piece of the health care puzzle. Assuring financial access does not guarantee that consumers will receive quality or safe health services.



Research from the PA Health Care Cost Containment Council and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has shown that:

- * 2,500 people died in PA from hospital infections in 2006
- * Medical errors kill more people per year than breast cancer, AIDS, or motor vehicle accidents.

In order to solve this problem, we need a collaborative approach including stakeholders from across the health care system and community. Without consumer involvement and input, it is impossible to even define what quality health care is and achieve patient-centered care.

Since the consumer voice is critical and has historically been absent from the health care quality movement, CHC is organizing a Committee to improve health care quality. The Committee will work to educate the public about the need to enhance health care quality and will advance policy solutions that improve patient safety. CHC will also help the Committee form strategic partnerships.

