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DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO THE NEWLY MERGED MEDICAID AND EXCHANGE ADVISORY BOARD

WILLISTON – The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) today announced the appointment of 30 members to the newly merged Medicaid and Exchange advisory committee. The committee will advise and inform DVHA on policy development and program administration for the state’s Medicaid-funded programs and the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange.

Previously, DVHA had worked closely with the Medicaid Advisory Board and the Exchange Advisory Board separately to consult on policy development and other issues pertaining to Medicaid and the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange, respectively. Both the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Vermont’s Act 48 require ongoing stakeholder consultation and Act 48 requires the two existing boards merge on July 1, 2012. Each individual member will serve a three-year term, in a staggered rotation. The committee will advise DVHA Commissioner Mark Larson.

“I’m looking forward to working with this talented group of individuals and drawing on their backgrounds, experiences and expertise,” said Commissioner Mark Larson. “Vermont’s goal is to create an integrated and universal health care system in Vermont that can control costs and improve the health of Vermonters. I am confident that the individuals on the board will strengthen our efforts by offering practical advice and holding us to high expectations.”

The federal and state guidance for stakeholder consultation require the following representation in the committee: beneficiaries of Medicaid or Medicaid-funded programs, individuals, self-employed individuals, and representatives of small businesses, large employers, insurance carriers, brokers and agents, advocates for consumer organizations, health care professionals and representatives from a broad range of health care professionals.

“We are very fortunate to have such a variety of perspectives in one room,” said Lindsey Tucker, Deputy Commissioner for the Vermont Health Benefit Exchange. “Working together, we can ensure our policies and operations are efficient and effective.”

A complete list of Medicaid and Exchange advisory committee members is below.

Bram Kleppner, Danforth Pewter
Catherine Hamilton, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont
Cathy Davis, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
Christina Colombe, consumer
Clifton Long, self-employed
Dale Hackett, consumer
Donna Sutton Fay, Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security
Ellen Gershun, consumer

Floyd Nease, Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery
Gladys Mooney, consumer
Harry Chen, Commissioner of Health Department
Joan Lavoie, consumer
Julie Lineberger, LineSync Architecture
Julie Tessler, Vermont Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services
Kay Van Woert, Vermont Family Network
Larry Goetschius, Addison County Home Health & Hospice
Laura Pelosi, Vermont Health Care Association
Lisa Maynes, consumer
Liz Cote, Vermont State Dental Society
Madeleine Mongan, Vermont Medical Society
Michael Roche, Vermont Arborists
Michael Sirotkin, Community of Vermont Elders
Paul Bakeman, Vermont Coalition for Disability Rights
Randy Cook, Fletcher Allen Health Care
Shannon Wilson, Vermont Chamber of Commerce
Sharon Henault, consumer
Sheila Reed, Voices for Vermont's Children
Susan Barrett, Bi-State Primary Care Association
Tim Ford, Vermont Independent Agents Association
Trinka Kerr, Vermont Health Care Ombudsman

The first committee meeting will be on Monday, July 16, 2012 in Williston, Vermont (DVHA, 312 Hurricane Lane, large conference room) from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Meetings are open. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and will have an opportunity to address the committee during a public comment period. A full 2012 calendar will be determined at the first committee meeting.

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