

**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT: Julie Kerlin  
(404) 657-9118**

**State's New Health Care Delivery System Begins Today  
*Georgia Healthy Families Gives Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids Members More  
Choices and Enhanced Services***

**ATLANTA (June 1, 2006)** — Implementation begins today for Georgia Healthy Families, the state's new program to bring private health plans, providers and patients together to improve the health status of members of Georgia's Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs. Nearly 600,000 members in the Atlanta and Central regions of the state will begin receiving health care through Georgia Healthy Families today. The program will begin Sept. 1 for members in the rest of the state.

"The health and well-being of all Georgians – including Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids members – is vital to the success of our state," said Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue. "By partnering with private health care plans and promoting preventive care, Georgia Healthy Families will deliver higher quality health care services at a lower cost."

Georgia Healthy Families will strengthen the state's health care system by giving members the option of choosing a health plan that best suits their needs; providing health education and prevention programs; and assisting members in finding doctors, specialists and dentists. Additionally, members will have a primary care provider, ensuring a medical home and continuity of care.

"It's important for members to have a doctor that they trust and turn to for medical care" said Department of Community Health Commissioner Dr. Rhonda Medows. "Georgia Healthy Families is about making good choices and taking an active role in healthcare. The Department continues to work diligently with our partners to ensure members have the tools they need to access care."

**-more-**

**New Health Care Delivery System**  
**Page 2**

Members have received new identification cards and plan membership information in the mail. The identification cards have important information on them including the name of the member's primary care provider, and members should present the card to their doctor or other health care professional each time they receive care.

Additionally, each health plan has a toll-free line to answer member questions and help members should they experience any difficulties. For questions about Georgia Healthy Families, call 1-888-GA-ENROLL (423-6765) or visit [www.gahealthyfamilies.com](http://www.gahealthyfamilies.com). For specific health plan questions, call:

Amerigroup Community Care  
(800) 600-4441

Peach State Health Plan  
(800) 704-1484

WellCare of Georgia  
(866) 231-1821

**About Georgia Department of Community Health**

The Department of Community Health champions:

- 1) access to affordable, quality health care in our communities,
- 2) responsible health planning & use of health care resources and,
- 3) healthy behaviors & improved health outcomes.

The Department of Community Health provides health care benefits to more than 2 million of Georgia's citizens under the Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs and the State Health Benefit Plan.

**###**