



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Lisa Marie Shekell

404-463-5304

Commissioner Discusses Consumer Benefits and Expectations of Transparency Initiatives

ATLANTA – Today, on a panel at the Scottsdale Institute Fall Conference entitled “Transparency: Changing Consumer Behavior,” Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), and panelists discussed providing health care consumers with the necessary tools to make informed, health decisions around the quality and cost of health care.

“Our consumers have a level of expectation; they know this type of information exists for other industries,” said Dr. Medows. “Transparency initiatives are working to make health care quality and cost information available to health care consumers.”

Dr. Medows provided conference attendees with further details around transparency efforts taking place on the federal level, as well as specific details around the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) initiative in Georgia.

On October 17, 2006, Governor Sonny Perdue signed an Executive Order creating the HITT Board so it can advise DCH on the best practices for encouraging the use of electronic health records and establishing a statewide strategy to enable health information to be readily available and transparent.

For more information about the HITT initiative, visit www.dch.georgia.gov.

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About the Department of Community Health

The Georgia Department of Community Health champions:

ACCESS to affordable, quality health care in our communities

RESPONSIBLE health planning and use of health care resources

HEALTHY behaviors and improved health outcomes