



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioner Announces Members of the Health Information Technology and Transparency Board *First meeting to be held Friday, November 17, 2006*

ATLANTA - Today, Dr. Rhonda Medows, Commissioner of the Department of Community Health (DCH), announced the members of the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Advisory Board. The 12 members will serve a two-year term, ending June 30, 2008. An adhoc group of experts have also been identified to support the board's efforts.

"This is an exciting day for health care in Georgia. The members of this board will help advise Georgia on how to implement a system that gives the patient more information about the quality of their care and the price that it costs," Dr. Medows said. "By connecting medical systems, patients will be better served from the doctor's office to the pharmacy window. Patients will be able to have access to their records, as well as the price of the care they receive. Duplication of services can be eliminated, saving the patient time and money."

On October 17, 2006, Governor Sonny Perdue signed an Executive Order creating the 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.

The first meeting of the HITT advisory board will be Friday, November 17, 2006 at 9 a.m. in the Floyd Room of Twin Towers West. The meeting is open to the public.

Members of the HITT Advisory Board

Mike Adloo, Pharmacy Member - Adloo is a regional manager for Wal-Mart's Pharmacy Division. He is responsible for 128 pharmacies in the entire state of Georgia.

Jeffrey Broka, Laboratory Member - Broka is the southeast managing director for Quest Diagnostics. His service with Quest Diagnostics spans 20 years in various sales and operational leadership roles.

Dr. James Buehler, Public Health Member - Buehler is a consultant epidemiologist with the Division of Public Health with the Georgia Department of Human Resources. He is also a research professor in the Department of Epidemiology and a member of the Center

for Public Health Preparedness and Research at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

Robert Bush, Privacy Advocate Member - Bush is an attorney with Georgia Legal Services. He founded and manages the organization's HIV/AIDS project.

Dr. Jack Chapman, Physician Member - Chapman is an ophthalmologist and serves as the president-elect of the Medical Association of Georgia.

Monye Connolly, Health Plan Member - Connolly serves as president of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia. She has been with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia for more than 20 years.

Chris Downing, Federal Government Member - Downing is the Region IV director for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Greg Fields, Rural Health Provider Member - Fields is the director of information systems for Ty Cobb Healthcare System Inc, a health care provider for Northeast Georgia.

Judson Hill, Legislative Member - Hill is a member of the Georgia State Senate representing portions of Cobb and Fulton Counties. He is the chair of the Senate Study Committee on Healthcare Transformation and also serves on the Senate Health and Human Services standing committee.

Patricia Massey, Hospital Member - Massey is vice President and chief information officer at Memorial Health in Savannah, Ga. She oversees day-to-day operations of the organization's information services and strategy.

Sonya Smith, Consumer Member - Smith is executive council Member for AARP's Health and Supportive Services. Smith, a retired nurse, has served as an AARP volunteer in health related volunteer leadership roles for more than 20 years.

Russell J. Williams, Long Term Member - Williams is the director of operations for the A.G. Rhodes Homes, a nursing home company serving Atlanta. He is also the Metro Atlanta Council president of the Georgia Health Care Association.

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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