

## HEALTH CARE FOR ALL COLORADO - HISTORY of HCAC and HCACF

- 1948 United Nations charter Article 25 lists health care as a human right.
- 1993 League of Women Voters embraced health care as a human right.
- 2000 The Gray Panthers, a senior citizen group in the Denver metro area met on health care and other social justice issues. Their leader was Bob Danknich. Other parent organizations of HCAC included the League of Women Voters (LWV) and Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP). Rebekka Struik was active in all three groups.
- 2001 Bruce Robinson, Ron Forthofer, Dr. Howie Wolf, Mary and Ray Sell, Rebekka Struik and Adrienne Harber and others met monthly in Boulder to work toward achieving single payer universal health care in Colorado. Thus HCAC was born. Elinor Christiansen joined the group in Boulder and soon John Valvano , Michele Papale and Norin Elfton became involved. A mission statement was written for HCAC and speaker training began.
- 2002 HCAC website and logo (with a stethoscope) were designed by Phil Weinstein. Under the leadership of Bruce Robinson and Ron Forthofer a brochure was printed, newsletter printed, and a banner made for public events. Ray Sell was HCAC treasurer. In June Dr. Elinor Christiansen started the Denver chapter and John Valvano co-chaired it with Elinor until 2007. Amy Truby and John Valvano drafted the bylaws for HCAC. When the Gray Panthers folded they gave their residual money (a modest amount) to HCAC for single payer universal health care. Bob Danknich and Ron Forthofer drafted a Colorado universal health care initiative.
- In Jan. 2002 John Conyers introduced to Congress "United States Health Rights Act of 2002" the first single payer health bill, which was authored by 17 PNHP physicians, including Dr. Elinor Christiansen. (Current version is HR 676)
- 2003 HCAC Foundation was created and bylaws were written by Amy Truby and John Valvano. First annual meeting was held in June 2003 with Bruce Robinson elected as president. One set of officers were elected and one board approved by the members to serve both HCAC and HCACF with separate agendas, minutes, and treasuries.
- 2004 Second annual meeting was held at the Tivoli. Elinor Christiansen was elected president, Michele Papale secretary and Ron Gould treasurer. New chapters developed in Pueblo and in Loveland/Fort Collins after Elinor Christiansen spoke to LWV groups in both areas.
- 2005 First Gala in April featured James Steele, co-author of "Critical Condition", and netted \$10,000. Elinor Christiansen was re-elected president, Terry Fedak became secretary, and Ron Gould continued as treasurer. Our first part-time staff person or Program Administrator, Nancy Billica, was hired in September and served both boards one year.

HCAC chapters now included Boulder, Denver, Pueblo, Fort Collins, Alamosa and Montrose.

- 2006 Dr. Rocky White from Alamosa introduced his single payer universal health care bill with a few minor revisions by HCAC to the Blue Ribbon Health Care Reform Commission, known as the "208 Commission". Out of 31 proposals submitted, six were single payer and Rocky White's (HCAC's) bill was the one single payer bill selected by the Commission for economic analysis by Lewin. Elinor was re-elected as president of HCAC and HCACF, Terry Fedak was elected secretary and Ron Gould re-elected as treasurer.
- 2007 Kristen Hanna was hired as part-time staff in January to serve both HCAC and HCACF. In June HCAC annual meeting two sets of officers were elected. Dr. Richard Gingery was elected president of HCAC and Barry Keene vice president, and Terry Fedak became treasurer when Ron Gould resigned. New logo design (with umbrella) was introduced at the annual meeting. Elinor Christiansen was elected president of HCAC Foundation. Our single payer bill was the only one out of the five analyzed by Lewin that would cover every resident of Colorado and the only one that would cost less than current total health care spending. New brochures were designed with help of PR consultant.
- 2008 Dick Gingery was re-elected HCAC president and Barry Keene vice president. Anne Courtright was elected secretary of HCAC and Tom Stermitz elected treasurer. However Dick Gingery moved to California in August and resigned. Barry Keene also resigned as he did not want to become president. Dr. Irene Aguilar was elected by the board to be president of HCAC. Elinor Christiansen was re-elected president of HCAC Foundation, Tom Russell was elected vice president, Lyn Gullette secretary, and Tom Stermitz treasurer. When Irene Aguilar was elected president of HCAC, Tom Russell moved from vice president of HCACF to vice president of HCAC. Nathan Wilkes was elected to be vice president of HCAC Foundation. Tom Stermitz resigned as treasurer of HCAC and HCACF in September and Ivan Miller was elected treasurer by both boards. Kristen Hannum resigned in September to pursue writing interests.
- 2009 Irene Aguilar worked with Representative John Kefalas of Fort Collins to draft a bill 1273 which was introduced to the Colorado House of Representatives, passed committee hearings with an outpouring of testimony from HCAC volunteers, and came within one vote of passing on the floor of the House. In January two part-time staff were hired to replace Kristen, Dick Barkey was hired to work as Program Administrator for HCAC and Nancy Niero was hired to serve as Program Administrator for HCAC Foundation.
- 2010 Irene Aguilar was re-elected president of HCAC, Dave Bean vice president of HCAC, Anne Courtright secretary and Ivan Miller treasurer. Lyn Gullette became president of HCAC Foundation, Nathan Wilkes was re-elected as vice president, and Miki Farrin secretary. In November a vacancy occurred in the state senate when the senator from her district

resigned to run for Denver mayor, Irene decided to become a candidate for senator and won in December. She resigned as president of HCAC when she became state senator.

2011

Dave Bean, vice president of HCAC, became president serving from January to June. Senator Aguilar introduced her own Colorado Health Care Cooperative bill, working closely with Ivan Miller. In the final days of the legislative session it was heard on the floor of the Senate and won a favorable vote but due to lack of time could not move to the House.

New officers elected for HCAC at the annual meeting in June are Dr. Shelley Cohen president, Lydia Guzman vice president, Lyn Gullette secretary and Ivan Miller re-elected as treasurer. New officers for HCAC Foundation are Ann Molison, president, Nathan Wilkes re-elected vice president, Miki Farrin re-elected secretary and Ivan Miller continuing as treasurer.