



PNHP Newsletter – October 6, 2014
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PNHP-CO understands its mission framed as national universal health care financed by a public single payer system. This organization is accused of being idealist and radical, and is encouraged to support reform that is realistic and achievable. However, we know that a majority of Americans and practicing physicians support a government financed health care system. As PNHP members we do not determine what is right and wrong by determining what is feasible. ***A genuine leading organization (PNHP) does not search for consensus but is a molder of consensus.***

T Gottlieb

Coordinator's comments: It is my honor to work with the Colorado chapter of PNHP as I have enjoyed my close association with the national PNHP organization and members for several years now. We need our PNHP members actively engaged in educating in our communities throughout Colorado and the nation about single-payer reform from a position of professional and ethical authority. Physicians, nurses, medical and nursing students, and other PNHP members bring valuable single-payer research and health reform information to life through talks at local, state, and national gatherings where people continue to need information about how we can fix our dysfunctional health care system. There are so many competing messages and conflicting reports based on the political bias and individual/organizational agendas of various political groups that having clearly

documented information shared by trusted members of our communities – like our physicians and nurses – is vital to the public's understanding and support of single-payer reform.

Tom and I look forward to working with you to support your work in your communities and beyond as Colorado's PNHP members share the journey to single-payer, improved and expanded Medicare for all for life. Please let me know if I can support your work in any way – and I do hope you will seriously consider attending the [PNHP national meeting in New Orleans in November](#).

President's comments: I am proud to introduce myself as a member of PNHP National because of all that PNHP has accomplished over the past twenty-seven (27) years and what we stand for; passionate advocacy for universal health care financed by a public single payer system. I am proud every time I am able to introduce myself as president of PNHP Colorado. I am proud because of the efforts to activate the role of PNHP Colorado to support education and research regarding health, safety, and financial security.

The local chapters are established to support the PNHP national mission. The discussion among the national leaders emphasizes education and research of the national reform movement including efforts by individual state based education and initiatives. This was demonstrated at the 2013 PNHP National Meeting in which Governor Peter Shumlin (Vermont) stated that he supports universal health care financed by a public single payer system. However, the political environment does not permit a state led universal, public and single payer reform. Gov. Shumlin states that the Vermont plan, Green Mountain

Care, is an incremental step towards an ideal single payer program. This presentation resulted in much discussion.

The PNHP CO membership has weighed in on a survey done four months ago. PNHP agrees to support education of the single issue mission of PNHP. Little interest exists in research of health care reform in Colorado including how to move forward with reform efforts. We now conclude the following; **1) we have support** for facilitating the development of a Student PNHP-CO Chapter. We are pursuing this effort through the University of Colorado School of Medicine and several students have been found that demonstrate this interest. **2) we have support** for the continued education in our Colorado communities. We now have a list of individuals who will educate regarding the PNHP mission. This is a particular challenge as we have a proposed state based health care reform initiative, the Colorado Health Care Cooperative, which will be introduced as an amendment to the Colorado Constitution. This is neither a *public nor a single payer* plan. The challenge for PNHP-CO is how to proceed with its education program. **3) we have no support** to activate a research effort to determine how to define the history of health care reform in Colorado and how to move forward with this reform.

I will **ASK** the following of our PNHP members.

1. Please support the PNHP National mission with continued membership through your dues and donation support.
2. Commit to attending the PNHP National Meeting November 14 - 15, 2014 in New Orleans. This is most energizing gathering of individuals committed to transforming our health care system to a more just system.

3. Commit to educating the PNHP National mission to Coloradans through community engagement.

PNHP-CO now has a paid coordinator, Donna Smith, for these PNHP-CO efforts. Let us know how we might help with your interests and concerns.

Sincerely,

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