



## **Communities Joined in Action**

### **For additional information contact:**

Vondie M. Woodbury, Board Chair 1-888-202-3600

Mary Lou Andersen, Founding President 1-302-235-1289

For information on CJA, [www.cjaonline.net](http://www.cjaonline.net)

## **NEWS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 28, 2008**

### **National Community Health Care Group Elects New Leaders**

Olympia, WA – Communities Joined in Action (CJA) a national organization whose mission is to “Mobilize and assist community health collaboratives to assure better health for all people at less cost” has elected new officers and six new board members.

Elected to one-year terms to lead the national organization were: Chair-elect Vondie M. Woodbury, Director of Community Benefit for Mercy Health Partners and Executive Director of Muskegon Community Health Project in Muskegon, Michigan; Vice-Chair-elect Karen Minyard, Executive Director of the Georgia Health Policy Center in Atlanta, Georgia; Treasurer-elect Tim Cox, Executive Director of Northland Health Alliance in Bismarck, North Dakota; and Secretary-elect Laura J. Brennan, Director of Community Development & Policy, PacificSource Health Plans in Portland, Oregon.

CJA works to assist communities across the nation who are developing local solutions to address America’s health coverage crisis. Working through peer-to-peer relationships, CJA reaches out to local community leaders offering best practice solutions in expanding health coverage, educational programs and public policy information. It is estimated that there are more than 600 communities engaged in some form of effort to cover uninsured people and to address disparities in care. CJA was established in 2002 and has been working closely with community collaboratives and individuals at the local and national level to improve community-based care strategies.

New board members elected at the annual retreat were Connie Brooks, Senior Director of Access Ministries, Ascension Health, St. Louis, Missouri; Steven M. Galen, Executive Director of Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, Silver Spring, Maryland; Cathy V. Maxwell, Executive Director of HealthKey, Tawas City, Michigan; Camille D. Miller, President & CEO of Texas Health Institute, Austin, Texas; James W. Walton, DO, Vice President & Chief Health Equity Officer of Baylor Health Care System, Dallas, Texas; and Rev. Joseph E. Washington, Executive Director of SharedCare, Myrtle Beach, North Carolina.

Outgoing Board Chair Kristen West, executive director of CHOICE Regional Health Network, Olympia, Washington, was honored for her exceptional leadership during her 5 year term on the CJA Board of Directors.

“With our new leadership in place, Communities Joined in Action will continue to move forward its mission of working to revolutionize health care by helping communities ensure health care access for all with zero disparities,” says Mary Lou Andersen, founding president of CJA.

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