



Minnesota Universal Health Care Coalition JUNE 2010 E-Newsletter

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful “Single-Payer Summer Celebration” last week. Over 200 guests came to the University Club to enjoy music, inspiring words and the enthusiastic company of single-payer advocates. We were treated to dinner music by Papa John Kolstad and his swing band, saw the premier of MUHCC’s first video short (see below), and finished off the evening with stirring and soulful music by T Mychael Rambo and Thom West.

Senator Sharon Erickson-Ropes illustrated her commitment to the Minnesota Health Plan with stories from constituents of financial miseries resulting from their medical needs. Donna Smith, an organizer with the National Nurses United, offered a rousing national perspective, emphasizing that states must now lead the way toward single-payer health care. In her words, “Who among us knows exactly what the path (to single-payer) will be in the US? It might lead right through Minnesota or California or Maine or Vermont, well before it rolls in waves of insistent justice through Washington, DC.” She lavished praise on the single-payer movement in Minnesota.

Thunderous applause and a standing ovation greeted Senator John Marty as he came forward to accept the first ever MUHCC Single-Payer Leadership Award. Senator Marty was acknowledged as “a special person, a legislative leader who has wholeheartedly embraced the cause of universal health care, effectively promoted it to the public and to legislators, and deeply inspired all of us.”

I continue to be inspired by the pioneers of the movement, by current leaders, and by the countless activists who carry the movement forward. Thank you for joining us!

Lisa Nilles MD
Board Chair

A great time was had by all at our Summer Single-Payer Celebration !



Senator Marty receives Single-Payer Leadership Award from Lisa Nilles, MUHCC Board Chair



Donna Smith gives an inspiring keynote, lauds nurses, highlights state action on single-payer

VERMONT IS A STEP CLOSER!

Vermont just enacted a health care bill, which became law without the Governor’s signature. Under the new legislation the (Vermont Health Care Reform) Commission is charged with hiring a consultant who will design three options for implementing a system of care that provides universal access. As stated in the bill, one design needs to be a **single payer system**, one a public option, and the third design will build on the current system. The legislature will be required to implement one of the plans. The options will be presented to the legislature next January 2011. [Read full article](#), [Read the Bill](#) (relevant section starts pg 47)

THE MINNESOTA HEALTH PLAN HITS THE SILVER SCREEN

Watch our [three minute film](#), making the case for the Minnesota Health Plan. It is sure to be nominated for the category "Documentary Short" at the next Academy Awards.

“SO DOC WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE REFORM BILL?”

(Editorial comment: One of the Clearest Responses You'll Ever Read)

"Would you add a third floor to a house that has a crumbling foundation?" Because that is what Congress just did. The crumbling foundation is our private, for-profit, insurance-based system of financing health care... Private insurers cause us to waste enormous amounts of money on excess paperwork and bureaucracy... Conventional wisdom suggests we have to "wait and see" how the administration's new law plays out. But we can't afford that: With about 50 million uninsured this year, some 50,000 people will die because they lack coverage, a recent study estimates. By 2019, those figures will only be halved, experts say."

[Read in full](#) in Cleveland Plain Dealer

IF YOU DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO READ THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT: "WORKING FOR HEALTH CARE JUSTICE!!"

Read it here: [Download Annual Report](#)



A BETTER PATH FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE PATIENTS? NOT YET

The Minneapolis Star Tribune recently highlighted both the failures of the recent GAMC "fix" and the administrative barriers to enrollment and care that exist in our current system.

"County officials across Minnesota say they could improve medical care for as many as 5,000 poor, disabled Minnesotans -- adrift in a cobbled-together state health program that took effect under a change in state law last week -- by shifting patients into the state-federal Medicaid program. The problem is that many financially strapped counties face rising social service caseloads and lack the staff and funds to step up efforts to do the paperwork... But to get clients onto Medicaid, a county human services worker must spend weeks gathering medical and other documents and send them to the state for action -- an activity many counties say they simply can't expand... [Read it in full](#)

COMMENT: What if we didn't even try to hire more people to fill out forms, verify income, and document disability but instead, automatically covered everyone with a comprehensive plan, with fair provider reimbursement and choice of doctor and hospital? Imagine spending our health care dollars on care instead of endless paperwork- it's possible if we enact the Minnesota Health Plan!

THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE FOR 2011

Retirements

The following MN Health Plan co-authors are retiring: Sen. Mee Moua, Sen. Steve Murphy, Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba and Rep. Cy Thao. The following MN Health Plan co-authors are running for higher office: Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon (Mark Dayton's Lt Governor), Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (Governor), and Rep. Roger Reinert (State Senate). MUHCC will be following candidates and their health care positions. Make sure you elect supporters of the MN Health Plan. Mark your calendars and VOTE: Primary August 10th, General Election November 2nd.

The Minnesota Health Plan Fares Well in Gubernatorial Debate

The MN Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers held a gubernatorial forum at their professional conference earlier this month. "Asked whether the state should adopt a single-payer health care system, Dayton and Kelliher voiced strong support for the proposal..." [Read More](#)

COMING UP:

Single-Payer Is Still The Way *Forward*- Free Training!

Many people have questions about the path forward now that the federal reform bill has passed. What's the difference between the bills? Does the federal bill allow for single-payer? Do we still need additional reform? If so, how are we going to get it passed? If you want the answers to these questions and want to practice "making the pitch", this training is for you! **Thursday July 1st 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at the MUHCC office in Saint Paul. Can't make this one? Watch our [calendar](#) for other opportunities. **RSVP required.**



Join the July 4th Parade in St. Peter for the Minnesota Health Plan

Single-payer health care is PATRIOTIC! Spend part of Independence Day marching in the parade with other single-payer supporters. [Contact us](#) if you are interested. Details to follow.

The Great Minnesota Get Together

We are again planning a full time presence at the Minnesota State Fair, August 26th - September 6th. This year we will be in the Minnesota Farmers

Union building promoting the Minnesota Health Plan. We have over one hundred volunteer slots to fill. If you are interested in helping, [let us know](#). This is our chance to talk to thousands of Minnesotans about single-payer.

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE *DECLARATION OF HEALTH INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY*. HELP US REACH 250,000 SIGNATURES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for citizens of this nation and its separate but equal states to transform conditions related to the common good within our control and necessary in order to assure the basic human rights of all..."

[Read it in full](#)

[Add your name](#)

PLEASE CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT OUR ADVOCACY WORK- [Donate Now](#)

DONATE NOW