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Maricopa to host NACo health reform hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In an effort to contribute county government voices to the national debate on health care system reform, the National Association of Counties (NACo) will hold the first of three regional hearings on Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. in the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium.

The NACo Hearings on U.S. Health Reform will enable NACo's Health System Reform Working Group to accept testimony from officials with expertise in local government healthcare delivery systems regarding what they believe any national health care reform proposals should include. The working group is made of 23 elected and appointed county officials from across the country.

The first hearing in Maricopa County will be hosted by NACo President Don Stapley, supervisor, Maricopa County, Ariz., and will be chaired by NACo President-elect Valerie Brown, supervisor, Sonoma County, Calif. The second and third hearings will be announced next month. Following the hearings in the spring, the NACo Working Group will issue recommendations on behalf of the nation's counties to the Obama Administration and the 111th Congress advising them on how best to achieve national health system reform which enhances the health of families and communities and has a positive financial impact on counties.

"The purpose of these hearings is to engage county officials and health care professionals from across the country to help NACo contribute national health policy reform," said Brown. "Counties play a critical role in the national health care system and must be part of the reform discussion in Washington in the months and years ahead."

Stapley said the hearings are part of NACo's mission to Restore the Partnership between the federal government and counties.

"For decades, the federal government and counties worked together to answer the challenges facing the nation, but in recent years that partnership has diminished," Stapley said. "The need to Restore the Partnership has never been greater in this time of shrinking county revenues and increased demands for services. I am proud that the first of these important hearings on health system reform will be held in my home county of Maricopa." See attachment for the list of participants.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org



NACo Health System Reform Working Group Members

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New York State Association of Counties
- Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner
Craven County, NC
- Roy C. Brooks
Commissioner
Tarrant County, TX
- Valerie Brown
Supervisor
Sonoma County, CA
- Celeste Carpiano
Executive Director
New Jersey Association of Counties
- Greg Cox
Supervisor, Chair
San Diego County, CA
- Deborah Donaldson
Human Services Director
Sedgwick County, KS
- Lenny Eliason
Commissioner
Athens County, OH
- Leon Evans
President/Chief Executive Officer
The Center for Health Care Services, TX
- Gregg Goslin
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Cook County, IL
- Robert Janes
Commissioner
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- Larry L. Johnson
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- Ronald Sims
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Public Information Officer
Johnson County, KS
- Leon F. Vinci
Director, Public Health
Johnson County, KS
- Jo Weber
Director, Human Services
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