

# Joint Commission on Health Care

April 2009

## Newsletter

### *From the Chairman*



Now that the Session is behind us and our first meetings are scheduled for next week,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief update. With the exception of next week's meetings, we plan to begin our morning meetings at 10:00 a.m., a request made by several of our members.

In addition, the focus of the Long-Term Care/Medicaid Reform Subcommittee has been expanded and accordingly the subcommittee has

been renamed the Healthy Living/Health Services Subcommittee. In preparation for our work plan discussions on April 30<sup>th</sup>, the new studies requested of JCHC as well as the studies continued from last year are described on the second page of this newsletter.

As many of you know, two of our longest serving members will be leaving the Commission.

Delegate Frank Hall, who joined JCHC in 1996, has retired from the General Assembly to accept an appointment to the Virginia Alcoholic Bev-

erage Control Commission. Delegate Ken Melvin, one of only two of the original JCHC members still serving on the Commission has been appointed to the Portsmouth Circuit Court by Governor Kaine.

I am sure you will want to join me in thanking Frank and Kenny for their invaluable contributions and wish them well in their future endeavors.

## Actions Taken on JCHC's 2009 Legislative Proposals

Senate Bill 1060/House Bill 1952

Chief Patrons: Senator Puller and Delegate O'Bannon

*Purpose:* To repeal the sunset date for the Joint Commission on Health Care.

*Final Action:* Both bills were amended to extend the sunset date from July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012.

Senate Bill 1341/House Bill 2087

Chief Patrons: Senator Lucas and Delegate Melvin

*Purpose:* To amend the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act (Title 4.1) to make hosting a party in which underage drinking is allowed to be a specific crime punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor.

*Final Action:* Each bill was stricken at the request of the chief patron due to issues identified during Committee discussions. The BHC Subcommittee will consider the option of addressing the identified issues including whether legislation should be introduced in 2010.

Senate Bill 1228/House Bill 2288

Chief Patrons: Senator Barker and Delegate Cline

*Purpose:* To correct a mistake from the 2007 Session when two JCHC bills were amended (and consequently passed) in slightly different ways.

*Final Action:* Both bills were left in the Senate Education and Health Committee. The BHC Subcommittee will consider the option of addressing the identified issues including whether legislation should be introduced in 2010.

## Membership

Senator R. Edward Houck  
Chairman

Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton  
Vice Chairman



Senator George L. Barker

Senator Harry B. Blevins

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Senator Ralph S. Northam

Senator Linda T. Puller

Senator Patricia S. Ticer

Senator William C. Wampler, Jr.



Delegate Clifford L. Athey, Jr.

Delegate Robert H. Brink

Delegate David L. Bulova

Delegate Benjamin L. Cline

Delegate Franklin P. Hall

Delegate Kenneth R. Melvin

Delegate Harvey B. Morgan

Delegate David A. Nutter

Delegate John M. O'Bannon, III

Secretary Marilyn B. Tavenner

# Joint Commission on Health Care

## Studies Proposed During 2009 Session



### SJR 292

(Senator Stephen H. Martin)  
Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the benefits to the Commonwealth of appropriating additional funds for cancer research. This is a two-year study.

Staff: Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D



### SJR 325

(Senator R. Edward Houck)  
Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to study opportunities for early identification and preventive care of chronic diseases.

Staff: Jaime H. Hoyle



### SJR 339

(Senator George L. Barker)

Directs the Joint Commission on Health Care to study ways to ensure that individuals with life-threatening conditions receive the care they need regardless of resources. This is a two-year study.

Staff: Jaime H. Hoyle

### SB 1229

(Senator George L. Barker)

Pursuant to Senate Rule 20 (1), this bill was referred to JCHC and JCOTS. SB 1229 sought to add "further protections to medical information by (i) adding medical information and health insurance information to the definition of personal information, which requires an individual to be notified in the case of a database security breach, and (ii) adding a corporation organized for the purpose of maintaining medical information to the definition of health care provider in the health records privacy act."

Staff: Stephen W. Bowman

## Studies Continued from 2008

### Analysis of Virginia's Health Workforce Pipelines

Examination of the educational pipelines for physicians (including certain specialists), pharmacists, dentists and clinical psychologists as well as current and projected workforce shortages for those professions.

Staff: Stephen W. Bowman

### Alternatives to Long-Term Care — HJR 69

(Delegate Kenneth R. Plum)

### Support for Family Caregivers — SJR 69/HJR 238

(Senator Walter A. Stosch/Delegate Stephen C. Shannon)

A combined study examining culture change in long-term care facilities, services that enable elders to age at home, and support services for family caregivers.

Staff: Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D.

## Meeting Schedule for 2009

### April 30th

9:30 a.m.

Joint Commission on Health Care

10:15 a.m.

Healthy Living/Health Services Subcommittee

11:00 a.m.

Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee

### Summer date to be determined

Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee

Healthy Living/Health Services Subcommittee

### September 1st

10:00 a.m.

Joint Commission on Health Care

1:00 p.m.

Healthy Living/Health Services Subcommittee

### October 7th

10:00 a.m.

Joint Commission on Health Care

1:00 p.m.

Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee

### November 12th

10:00 a.m.

Decision Matrix Meetings



All meetings will be held in Senate Room A of the General Assembly Building

Note: Studies assigned to the subcommittees are not listed in this newsletter.