



The Coalition for Affordable Quality Healthcare

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COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTHCARE (CAQH) NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Coalition for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH), a group of 26 of the nation's leading health plans working together to improve the American health care system, announces the appointment of its first director, Robin Thomashauer, a leading consultant to the health care industry.

"We are excited to have someone of Robin's caliber leading the team. Her experience, knowledge and thoughtfulness will not only provide the focused management of the day-to-day activities of the organization, her leadership and expert understanding of the issues will help drive the Coalition's key initiatives," said H. Edward Hanway, chairman and chief executive officer of CIGNA and CAQH chairman. "During the past three years, CAQH has worked to refocus the industry and improve the health care experience for consumers and doctors and has made great progress toward our goals. With Robin as executive director we will have the on-going leadership to affect change."

Thomashauer has spent more than 23 years in managed care operations and hospital administration. During this time she has served as senior manager in several health care organizations, including the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan. She has been a thoughtful leader in the health care industry and is known for her creative solutions to streamline and improve the system. Most recently, Thomashauer served as a Director in the PricewaterhouseCoopers Healthcare Consulting Practice.

"It is a great honor to be appointed executive director of the coalition," said Thomashauer. "I have been impressed by the commitment of the leadership of CAQH and the 26 member health plans to improve the quality of health care for all Americans. I look forward to working with the membership to fully implement our current initiatives and to create meaningful ways to further expand and realize the goals of CAQH."

CAQH has an ambitious agenda in the coming months that will focus on implementing many of the goals established by the organization. Thomashauer will be instrumental in these initiatives, including efforts to reduce time-consuming tasks for physicians through the creation of an online formulary database and a single credentialing application that will reduce administrative time and allow doctors and their staff to concentrate on patients, not paperwork.

Efforts to spread the word about the dangers of antibiotic resistance through the Save Antibiotic Strength campaign will continue in the pilot sites of the state of Connecticut, San Diego, Calif., and Norfolk, Va., this fall. More information about CAQH and its initiatives can be found on the CAQH Web site at www.CAQH.org.



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CAQH is a coalition of 26 of nation's largest health plans and insurers, which serve more than 100 million Americans. Companies and trade associations participating in CAQH are: Aetna; American Association of Health Plans; Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield; AultCare; Beech Street Corporation; Blue Cross Blue Shield Association; BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina; CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield; CIGNA; ConnectiCare, Inc.; Empire BlueCross BlueShield; FirstHealth; Great-West Life & Annuity Life Insurance Company; Group Health Cooperative of Puget Sound; Health Insurance Association of America; Health Net, Inc.; HealthPartners; Highmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey; Independence Blue Cross; MultiPlan, Inc.; Mutual of Omaha; Oxford Health Plans; PacifiCare Health Systems Inc.; Private Healthcare Systems, Inc.; RightCHOICE Managed Care, Inc.; The Regence Group; Trigon Healthcare, Inc.; and WellPoint.