

# Acknowledgements

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The North Carolina Institute of Medicine's (NCIOM) Health Access Study Group was convened at the request of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2008. The General Assembly directed the Study Group to study issues related to expanding access to appropriate and affordable health care for all North Carolinians. The Study Group was instructed to consider previous and current work by the NCIOM, successful efforts in other states to improve access and affordability of health care, and relevant federal initiatives and to present the final report and recommendations to the 2009 General Assembly. The Study Group was led by three co-chairs, including Representative Hugh Holliman, District 81, North Carolina House of Representatives; Senator Tony Rand, District 19, North Carolina Senate; and L. Allen Dobson Jr, MD, FAAFP, Vice President, Clinical Practice Development, Carolinas HealthCare System. There were 36 additional Study Group members including legislators, state and local agency officials, health care professionals, and other interested persons who dedicated one day a month between September 2008 and January 2009 to research this issue. Two Study Group members and an additional two people participated in the Study Group's Steering Committee. These individuals helped shape meeting agendas and recommendations as well as identify speakers. The accomplishments of the Study Group would not have been possible without the hard work of both the Study Group members and the Steering Committee members. A complete list of Study Group members and Steering Committee members can be found on pages 7-9 of this report.

The NCIOM Health Access Study Group heard presentations from state and national experts on efforts to provide access to appropriate and affordable health care. We would like to thank the following people for sharing their expertise and experiences with the Study Group: Samantha Artiga, MHSA, Senior Policy Analyst, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Thomas Bacon, DrPH, Associate Dean and Director, Area Health Education Centers Program School of Medicine; Joshua Goldberg, Health Policy and Legislative Analyst, National Association of Insurance Commissioners; Michael Keough, Executive Director, North Carolina Health Insurance Risk Pool; Ken Lewis, Chief Executive Officer, FirstCarolinaCare, President of the Board, North Carolina Association of Health Plans; Cindy Mann, JD, Executive Director, Center for Children and Families, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute; Edward Neuschler, MPP, Senior Program Officer, Institute for Health Policy Solutions; Melissa Pratt, Outreach Manager, Insure Oklahoma; Thomas Ricketts III, PhD, MPH, Deputy Director, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Professor, Health Policy and Management and Social Medicine, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Brian Toomey, Chief Executive Officer, Piedmont Health Services, Inc.; Torlen Wade, MSPH, Executive Director, North Carolina Community Care Network, Inc.

The NCIOM served as staff for the Study Group. Pam Silberman, JD, DrPH, President and CEO of the NCIOM, and Mark Holmes, PhD, Vice President of the NCIOM, helped lead the staff effort and assisted in writing and editing sections of the report. In addition to their work, Jesse Lichstein, MSPH, Project Director; David Jones, Research Assistant; and Julia Lerche, Research Assistant, helped write and edit sections of the report. Jesse Lichstein and Kimberly Alexander-Bratcher served as Project Directors for the Study Group's work and were assisted by Thalia Fuller, Administrative Assistant, who helped with meeting logistics.