



Acknowledgements

The Task Force was a collaborative effort of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), the North Carolina Department of Insurance (NC DOI), the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Sheps Center), and the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NC IOM). The Task Force was generously funded through a one-year State Planning Grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The primary staff direction of the overall State Planning Grant Task Force work was the responsibility of Dennis Williams, Associate Director, and Anne Braswell, Senior Analyst, of the Office of the Research, Demonstrations and Rural Health Development (ORDRHD), NC DHHS.

The Task Force extends special recognition to its two Co-Chairs: Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary, NC DHHS, and Thomas Lambeth, Senior Fellow, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, who helped set the agenda and gave overall direction to the Task Force. The Task Force's work and clarity of vision would not have been possible without their leadership. Pam Silberman, JD, DrPH, President and CEO of the NC Institute of Medicine, guided the work of the Task Force, facilitated one of the workgroups on public options, and was the primary author of the final Task Force report and several of the issue briefs. Sandra Greene, DrPH, Senior Research Fellow; Stephanie Poley, Project Director; and Mark Holmes, PhD, Senior Research Fellow of the Sheps Center and Vice President of the NC IOM assisted with the background research, writing and editing of the report, and facilitating the workgroup exploring private options. Kristen L. Dubay, MPP, Project Director, at the NC IOM helped organize the Task Force meetings, write sections of the reports and issue briefs, and took primary lead on editing the report. Kristie Weisner Thompson, MA, Assistant Vice President of the NC IOM also assisted with editing the report and other Task Force support. Key staff support was also provided by Adrienne Parker, Director of Administrative Operations, and Thalia Fuller, Administrative Assistant, with the NC IOM.

The Task Force wants to recognize the contributions of the late James Bernstein, MHA, former Assistant Secretary for Health, NC DHHS, who was instrumental in applying for and obtaining this grant to study the uninsured. Mr. Bernstein made expanding access to care for underserved populations his life's work.

Special thanks are also due to the members of the steering committee for helping to plan meetings, arrange speakers and presentations, obtain state-level data, and organize the workgroups: Anne Braswell, Senior Analyst, ORDRHD, NC DHHS;



Acknowledgements

Gustavo Fernandez, PhD, Former Director, State Center for Health Statistics, NC DHHS; Ziya Gizlice, PhD, Former Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Project Director and Coordinator, State Center for Health Statistics; Sandra Greene, DrPH, Senior Research Fellow, Sheps Center; Mark Holmes, PhD, Vice President, NC IOM; Barbara Morales Burke, MHA, Chief Deputy Commissioner, NC DOI; Stephanie Poley, Project Director, Sheps Center; Torlen Wade, Director, NC ORDRHD, NC DHHS; and Dennis Williams, Associate Director, ORDRHD, NC DHHS. The policy office in the Office of the Governor also provided valuable guidance throughout this project. Our gratitude is extended to its representatives: Alan Hirsch, Director; Phil Telfer, Senior Policy Advisor; and Walker Wilson, MPH, Policy Advisor. Alice Burton and Donald Cohn, from Academy Health, also provided valuable feedback to the steering committee.

A number of people were integral in providing information and analyses for this report. For their contributions to our understanding of issues related to the uninsured, we would like to thank the following people: Gail Pruett, MSN, RN, CS, North Carolina Committee to Defend Healthcare; Kevin Schulman, MD, MBA, Professor of Medicine, Director of the Center for Clinical and Genetic Economics, Duke University; and Michael Sparer, PhD, Professor of Health Policy, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. We would also like to recognize the Division of Medical Assistance of the NC DHHS for data and services provided for this effort, and Harry Herrick, MSPH, Interim BRFSS Coordinator, State Center for Health Statistics, for BRFSS data provided. Actuarial analysis from Mercer Government Consulting Group was also vital for the Task Force, and our appreciation for that work goes to Stacey Lampkin, FSA, MAAA; Tim Doyle, FSA, MAAA; Jeff Smith; and Jared Nason. Special appreciation also goes to colleagues at BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina, including Christopher FitzSimons IV, FSA, MAAA, Director; Kathryn Millican, Manager of Public Policy Development; and John M. Friesen, FSA, MAAA, Vice President. They provided essential assistance with information for the high-risk pool, and Mr. FitzSimons provided valuable actuarial data for a range of Task Force issues. Thanks are also due to Kathleen Holladay and Kenya Villines, of FGI Research, for their work conducting focus groups across the state.

In addition to Task Force and steering committee members, the NC IOM would like to thank the following people for their participation and contributions in the Task Force meetings: Ben Money, MPH, Associate Director, North Carolina Community Health Care Association; Dennis Harrington, Deputy Director, Division of Public Health, NC DHHS; Nancy Henley, MPH, MD, FACP, Former Deputy Director for Medical Policy, Division of Medical Assistance, NC DHHS; Aaron McKethan, Research Fellow, Institute for Emerging Issues; Rick Mumford, DDS, MPH, Senior Assistant to the State Health Director, Division of Public Health, NC DHHS; Andrea Radford, PhD, MHA, Research Associate, Sheps Center; Jeff Spade, CHE, Executive Director, NC Rural Health Center, NC Hospital Association; Roland Stephen, Assistant Director for Research and Policy, Institute for Emerging Issues; Pamela Sutton-Wallace, MPH, Chief of Staff, Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University; and Cathy Wright, Associate Director, Community Practitioner Program, North Carolina Medical Society.



Acknowledgements

The Task Force also appreciates the contributions of graduate students working with the NC IOM, including: Micheala Jones, PhD, Post Doctoral Fellow; Matt Canedy, MPA, Research Assistant; and Jaime Jenkins, MD, Research Assistant.

Most importantly, the NC IOM extends its appreciation to the 56 members of the Task Force who gave freely of their time and expertise to try to address this important issue. Many of the Task Force members are individuals who have spent their professional careers trying to expand healthcare services and health insurance to those without coverage across the state; and for this, we owe them a special note of gratitude.