

Health & Medicine  
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

**2007** ANNUAL REPORT

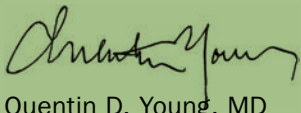
*Taking a snapshot of the year creates a useful tool  
for assessing past and present work  
and future obligations...*

After 27 years of work in the area of health policy research, we have learned that there is a rhythm to the work: times of opportunity and uncertainty, an ebb and flow of victories tempered by new challenges.

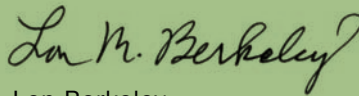
Last year was a good year. We achieved important victories, such as the passage — after 20 years — of legislation allowing for freestanding birth centers in Illinois, securing a budgetary commitment of over \$61 million in new dollars to support reform of our state's long-term care system, and progress toward establishing an Office of Girls Justice Services in Cook County. Of course we faced new challenges in 2007, including unprecedented budget cuts to the Cook County Bureau of Health Services, a deteriorating health care safety net across the region, struggling to serve an ever increasing number of people in need, and hospital and health center closures with health insurance ever more costly.

This “snapshot” of 2007 provides a context for our current activities and illuminates our vision for the future. If you are interested in a more comprehensive, in-depth analysis of our work and the health policy landscape, please visit our new website at [www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org).

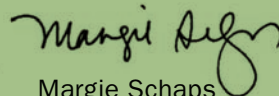
With your continued support, 2008 can bring us ever closer to the humane health care system we all seek.



Quentin D. Young, MD  
*Chairman*



Lon Berkeley  
*President*



Margie Schaps  
*Executive Director*

The purpose of Health and Medicine is to operate as an independent, freestanding, non-profit center for health policy formulation, advocacy, and health systems development to enhance the health status of the public.

#### *Core Values:*

- Universal health care
- Quality and effective delivery systems
- Adequately funded and compensated primary health care providers
- Preserving the special role of “safety net providers,” including the Cook County Bureau of Health Services and other public sector entities
- Recognition that health is principally dependent on factors other than medical care
- Elimination of health disparities related to racism

Health and Medicine focuses on practical, implementable solutions to the problems facing our health system. Among our 2007 accomplishments:

#### *Leading in Times of Crisis*

HMPRG assumed a leadership role in the Emergency Network to Save Cook County Health Services – working on governance and finance models; developing curricula for advocacy training; designing and maintaining [savecounty.org](http://savecounty.org), a website for the network; and conducting a successful emergency appeal to fund this work. Responding to the proposed 2008 Cook County budget, HMPRG trained more than 100 advocates to speak out about budget cuts and reform.

#### *Building Powerful Networks*

To meet the needs of shifting populations across northern Illinois, Health and Medicine has begun to look across traditional boundaries in our analysis and planning. In 2007, we brought together more than 70 organizations from across the region to create a set of comprehensive solutions to secure an adequate and seamless regional health care safety net. Our kick-off year instills confidence that we can make significant progress during the next two to three years to strengthen and broaden access for the region’s most vulnerable populations.

#### *Expanding Health Care Access*

Our Center for Long-Term Care Reform helped secure a Fiscal Year 2007 budgetary commitment of \$61.4 million in new dollars to support the reform recommendations of the Older Adult Services Advisory Committee and worked with partners to introduce HB 1034 in the 96th General Assembly. This bill has drawn attention to the need for community care providers to do counseling and care planning with older adults following admission to a nursing home. This resulted in an agreement with the Illinois Department of Aging to explore regulatory approaches to address this issue.

The Girls in Prison initiative convened The Court-Involved Girls' Advocates Group, comprising over 20 partner organizations, whose six months of deliberations resulted in policy recommendations to improve the physical and mental health of girls detained and incarcerated at county and state facilities. The central recommendation to create an Office of Girls' Justice Services has been accepted for discussion by the Transitional Administrator of the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC).

#### *Changing Health Policy*

In August 2007, the legislature passed Public Act 095-0445, allowing for the creation of up to 10 freestanding birth centers throughout the state. This marked the culmination of 20 years of advocacy by HMPRG and our partners. These centers will provide cost-effective, high-quality prenatal and obstetrical services, giving women an additional option when choosing where to give birth. We ended 2007 preparing for the next phase of work on this issue: working with the Illinois Department of Public Health to write rules and regulations, and with health care organizations to help establish the centers.

*Please visit the Health and Medicine website ([www.hmprg.org](http://www.hmprg.org)) to get the full story about our mission and vision, programs and projects, goals and expectations, impact and outcomes and to learn how you can support our work.*

### *Inspiring Young Health Professionals Toward a Life of Service*

After participating in an expanded orientation, 30 Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows served more than 600 people at two dozen community-based sites, providing special care such as: teaching prenatal yoga classes to help expectant mothers combat stress and depression associated with pregnancy; creating dental and psychological care referral networks; designing culturally appropriate educational materials to increase health literacy; leading art therapy groups for children with emotional and behavior issues; and counseling patients to achieve higher rates of medication compliance.

We enrolled more than 300 alumni in a new Fellows for Life initiative, creating opportunities for past Fellows to mentor current Fellows. We also published results from our first longitudinal survey, conducted in 2006 on the 10th anniversary of the Chicago program, which revealed that — despite busy personal and professional lives — Schweitzer alumni remain deeply committed to service.

Continuing our commitment to growing young leaders, the HMPRG office was home to several graduate interns who provided much needed support in areas ranging from research and analysis to event logistics. We taught health policy at several area universities and at conferences across the country.

### *Informing Stakeholders and the Public*

Health and Medicine continued to arm the public and policymakers — including county commissioners, state legislators and U.S. senators and representatives — with information on health and health policy issues.

We continued to serve as a regular source for local media outlets as they sorted out health policy issues. Chairman Quentin Young continued his public radio shows on WBEZ, which he has hosted for 25 years. We published op-ed pieces in local daily newspapers on the crisis in Cook County health services and the need for comprehensive state health financing reform, and conducted advocacy training sessions related to the Cook County funding crisis.

<b>Revenues, Gains and Public Support</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted</b>	<b>2007 Total</b>	<b>2006 Total</b>
Contributions	\$503,228	\$160,000	\$663,228	\$733,992
Special Events	1,500		1,500	141,156
Other Revenue	20,035		20,035	9,804
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	279,265	(279,265)		
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>804,028</b>	<b>(119,265)</b>	<b>684,763</b>	<b>884,952</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Total Program Services	600,604		600,604	531,767
Schweitzer Fellows	203,333		203,333	192,034
Women's/Girls' Health	84,802		84,802	49,453
Long Term Care	242,491		242,491	198,748
Safety Net	69,978		69,978	91,532
Total Supporting Services	150,207		150,207	155,590
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>750,811</b>		<b>750,811</b>	<b>687,357</b>
Change in Net Assets	53,217	(119,265)	(66,048)	197,595
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	249,932	279,265	529,197	331,602
<b>Net Assets End of Year</b>	<b>\$303,149</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$463,149</b>	<b>\$529,197</b>

Please note that while the audited 2007 financials show a deficit, Health and Medicine ended each of the five preceding years with a budget surplus and maintains a cash reserve. Our current position reflects a planful and strategic decision by leadership to invest in our organizational capacity for long-term strength and sustainability.

2007 upgrades included: transformation of the HMPRG website into a vital information hub for the region's health policy-makers, practitioners and system users; preparation for the use of Web logs (blogs), podcasts (audio and video files created for Internet distribution), audio and video to create an open forum for a broader and deeper public dialog about health reform; deployment of new online collaboration tools making it easier to work with our many partners; added online survey capabilities to enhance outcomes/impact assessment; implementation of new email tools used to inform our stakeholders about critical issues and advocacy initiatives; and addition of a part time Development Officer to assist with funds diversification and communications.

Health and Medicine Policy Research Group extends a heartfelt thanks to the institutions and individuals that – through their financial support – help us meet the challenges of the moment and ensure the organization’s continued stability and sustainability. We also greatly appreciate our dedicated program and Board volunteers who, in 2007, put in 5950 service hours!

### *Foundations and Institutions*

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The Baxter International Foundation  
Bloom Yoga Studio  
Chicago Community Trust  
Chicago Foundation for Women  
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Wider Opportunities for Women  
The Woods Fund of Chicago  
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Thank you to the 2007 public health and policy interns who provided program and administrative support; and to Annie Hagar and Lee Lin Wang, who worked with HMPRG in 2007 and have since moved on to other positions.

**Health & Medicine**  
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