

...to create QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE, AFFORDABLE health care coverage for all Utahns through research, policy advocacy, education, and civic engagement activities.

## 2006 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



**UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT**

*Quality Health Care Coverage for All Utahns*

[www.healthpolicyproject.org](http://www.healthpolicyproject.org)

## From the Executive Director: What a Year!



The Utah Health Policy Project emerged as a response to a system-wide crisis:

- The 2004-05 increase in Utah's uninsured rate was 7 times that of the nation. Right now over 400,000 Utahns have no health insurance, including over 80,000 children.
- Utah Medicaid, which provides health insurance for over 170,000 Utahns, continues to face financial challenges and threats to the purpose and structure of the program.
- The public's appetite for systemic health reform has never been greater...

In other words, the need for proven leadership and innovative solutions cannot be overstated.

The Utah Health Policy Project opened its doors one year ago, in April of 2006. It's not easy being the 'new kid on the block', and no one was more aware of the risk, not to mention stress, of starting something new in a climate of vulnerability for medical assistance programs. But somehow the community has rallied, elected officials have listened to us, the media has turned to us, and , best of all, we have created strong partnerships that will take us through the formidable challenges ahead.

The work of the UHPP requires vision, expertise, 'fire in the belly,' and most of all teamwork. We enjoyed working with all of you on this year's stunning policy victories: the Medicaid preferred drug list, restoration of adult dental and vision services, and full funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program. But now we must steel ourselves for the task at hand: these incremental victories are steps toward sustainable solutions to the crisis of the uninsured and rising health care costs. Please take the time to give us feedback on our proposal for health care reform, *The Utah Health Cooperative* (download at [www.healthpolicyproject.org](http://www.healthpolicyproject.org)) Who's ready? We are, and with the ongoing support of our coalition partners, legislative allies, and donor-investors, we will succeed.



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## **From the Board Chair and President: We're on the right track**

The Utah Health Policy Project has become a powerful voice for sustainable change in Utah health systems in its less than one year of operations. Our initiatives are keyed to the significant health system problems of today: Small business benefits, public health programs, and quality of care.

Our proposals are an answer to the quandaries of health policy which confound society: how to cover thousands more while not spending millions more or compromising quality. We are at the cutting edge of the health policy debate, both here in Utah and across the nation. Whether we are educating the legislature, fielding media inquiries, responding to speaking requests, publishing opinions in newspapers, or joining high level policy discussions, our success is based upon our core principles. Our board has articulated what ought to be the case in health care and we always adhere to that vision.



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Judi Hilman (Executive Director)  
Andrew Riggle (Medicaid Policy Director)  
Lincoln Nehring,  
(Civic Engagement Director)  
Joanna Kahn (Development Coordinator)

A warm thanks to our volunteers for generously donating their time and skills: Betty Chamberlin, Javier Chavez, Robin Tillery, graduate students of the social work class of Dr. Christina Gringeri, and students of the economics class of Janis Dubno, MBA. You make it all possible (and we have enjoyed having you around the office!).

2006 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

## Real Results in the 2007 Legislative Session...

This has been a year of unprecedented success for health policy and funding priorities in the legislative arena. UHPP was instrumental in achieving the following policy changes, coverage expansions, and restorations:

- Passed Senate Bill 42 implementing a Preferred Drug List in Utah's Medicaid Program, the culmination of a persistent 4-year campaign. And for the first time, we successfully made the case to re-invest the savings in critical, under-funded areas of the Medicaid program;
- Restored Medicaid dental and vision services for adults;
- Re-opened the Children's Health Insurance Program to serve up to 12,000 uninsured children, setting the stage for success in our collaborative campaign to fully re-authorize CHIP at the Federal level;
- Provided research and lobbying support to soundly defeat HB437, an anti-immigrant bill that would have required applicants to all public assistance programs to provide proof of citizenship status;
- Supported an additional \$500,000 in funding for the State Primary Care Grants Program, the only source of state funding for the state's community health centers.
- Passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 (...Urging Congress to Co-Sponsor and actively seek passage of the Health Partnership Act), though just in the State Senate. We view this as a tool for framing the debate about rising health care costs and the need for systemic and sustainable solutions;
- Helped to defeat HB141, an individual mandate that contained no mechanisms for affordability, imposed stiff fines on those who remain uninsured, and made being uninsured a criminal misdemeanor.

Of course, none of these victories would have been possible without the wonderful teamwork and cooperation among coalition partners, allies in the Legislature and Department of Health and Department of Workforce Services, and the many courageous advocates among the uninsured and under-insured.

UHPP fact sheets on these and other issues can be found at: [www.healthpolicyproject.org](http://www.healthpolicyproject.org)



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And **YOU** made it happen...

## REFLECTIONS ON OUR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

We know that results like these happen because ordinary people care enough to pick up the phone and call their legislators. The research on best practices, the fact sheets...these are all necessary but far from sufficient. For as long as there is a health care crisis, we will continue to facilitate civic engagement activities at the legislative district level. Health care issues touch all of us at the most basic, deeply personal level: the American taxpayer has been dealt an egregious injustice: s/he is already paying more for health care than the citizens of the developed world; and, for all our spending, we leave over 400,000 uninsured or about the same number under-insured.

The UHPP is building advocacy tools and systems to hold policymakers accountable to the desires of ordinary Utahns for sustainable solutions to the health care crisis. Visit our web site for details: [www.healthpolicyproject.org](http://www.healthpolicyproject.org)

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*UHPP has very effectively brought the faces and stories of the uninsured in the public limelight so that policy makers and the public can understand the challenges of being uninsured and the barriers to accessing health insurance. The UHPP has been a credible voice for health care issues for Utah's most vulnerable populations in its first year and is building an effective track record for influencing health care policy in the future.*

-Sheila Walsh-McDonald, Salt Lake Community Action Program

*The Utah Health Policy Project provides timely, credible research, and updates on complex health topics through the Health Matters electronic newsletter and other publications. During the last session of the Utah State Legislature the UHPP was instrumental in the passage of the Preferred Drug List, the coverage of vision and dental services, and providing the legislature with much needed tools for managing Medicaid costs. UHPP's strategic and thoughtful advocacy approach has made it a leader amongst advocacy organizations.*

-Matt Knotts, Executive Director, Disability Law Center

2006 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

## 2006 Financial Summary

Revenues	Total	Percent
Foundations, National	\$75,000	51.2%
Foundations, Local	\$30,000	20.5%
United Way	\$5,000	3.4%
Contributions	\$17,086	11.6%
Balance from Health Alliance	\$19,000	12.9%
Interest Income	\$209	.4%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$146,295</b>	<b>100%</b>

Expenses	Total	Percent
Personnel	\$47,776	32.6%
Non-Personnel Expenses	\$4,423	3%
Occupancy Expenses	\$3,050	2%
Miscellaneous	\$2,432	1.6%
Reserve Fund	\$88,614	60.5
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$146,295</b>	<b>100%</b>

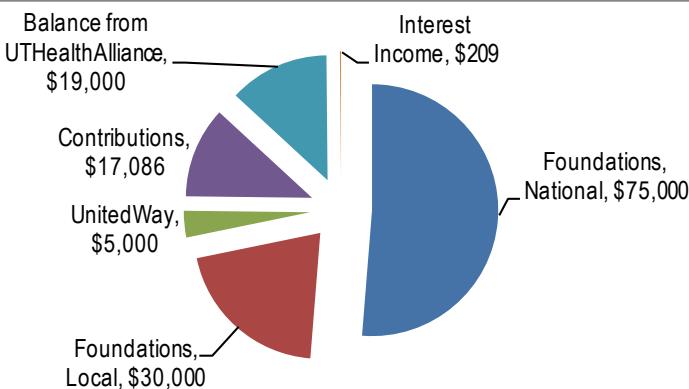
### Financial Summary Notes

Our fiscally conservative approach to organizational development led us to delay full start up until we had identified reliable sources of funding. Our reserve fund reflects this deliberate approach to starting up the UHPP. Thus, at the end of 2006 we decided that we were ready for full launch.

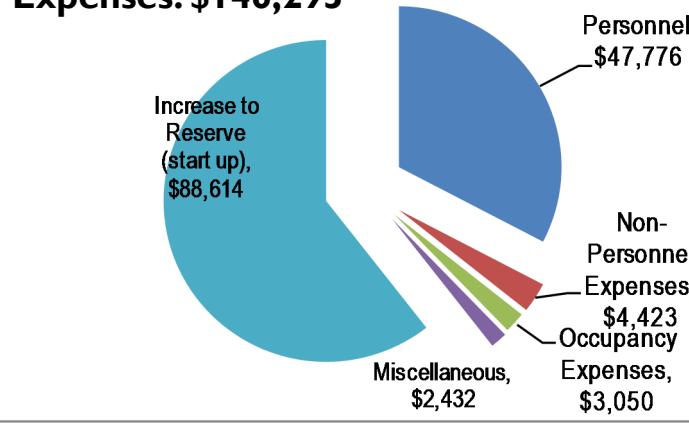


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### Total Revenues: \$146,295



### Expenses: \$146,295



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Comunidades Unidas  
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### In-Kind Contributors

Caputo's Market  
Computer ReNu  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
Les Olsen Company  
Vest Pocket Business Coalition

2006 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

## Reflections on the UHPP from Policymakers...

*In just one year the Utah Health Policy Project has distinguished itself as a key resource on strategies for managing Medicaid, CHIP, and health care costs. My colleagues and I may not always agree with the UHPP on ultimate solutions, but we trust the quality of their research materials and appreciate the constructive and respectful ways in which the UHPP engages constituents and stakeholders. Let's face it: the UHPP is grappling with some of the most complicated and contentious policy issues of the day. The process needs vision and leadership, which UHPP has demonstrated, as my colleagues and I explore lasting solutions to the crisis of the uninsured and rising health care costs.*

-Rep. Dave Clark (R) Majority Leader, Utah House of Representatives

*As a member of the Utah House of Representatives, I want to express my appreciation to Utah Health Policy Project for its quality research and policy analysis. The staff of UHPP are the people I turn to during the intense, 45-day legislative session. They provide me with data I can count on, in a concise form and without jargon. I have also been impressed with their deliberate and successful efforts to work with legislators on both sides of the aisle. And I count on their work on a year round basis, not just when we legislators are in session.*

-Rep. Roz McGee (D), Utah House of Representatives, Member of Health Committees

*I have to make very difficult about what to prioritize among the many worthy requests for funding. I am grateful to the Utah Health Policy Project for making our unenviable task so much easier by showing us specifically how we can sustain our funding commitments over time. Getting a Preferred Drug List in Utah Medicaid was no small undertaking! The UHPP highlighted best practices with respect to PDL implementation. Then they made an eloquent case to re-invest the savings in the most under-financed areas of the program: access to providers. I am looking forward to working with the talented staff at the UHPP through the challenging years ahead. As my colleagues and I take on even more formidable challenges like rising health care costs, I know I will be able to count on the UHPP for credible information and for helping consumers represent their needs in the most persuasive way possible.*

-Sen. D. "Chris" Buttars (R), Chair, Health & Human Services Interim Committee



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