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### **Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center Board Officers Named**

The governing board of the newly formed Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center has named *Dr. Doyle Fortney*, chief of human resources, Oklahoma State Department of Health, as chairman. Fortney serves on the board as the designee for the Oklahoma commissioner of health. Other officers confirmed by the board at its recent board meeting are: vice chairman, *Ron Webb*, CEO, Valley View Regional Hospital; treasurer, *Jauna Head*, senior budget analyst, Office of State Finance; and secretary, *Dr. Debbie Blanke*, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. Elected to the executive committee are *Claudean Harrision*, public member; *Clare Delaney*, RN, Oklahoma Nurses Association; *Dr. Phil Berkenbile*, state director, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education; and *Rep. Doug Cox* (R-Grove).

Other individuals serving on the Health Care Workforce Center governing board are: *Sen. Susan Paddack* (D-Ada); *Sen. Brian Crain* (R-Tulsa); *Rep. David Braddock* (D-Altus); *Dr. Ramona Paul*, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, designee for the state superintendent of public instruction; *Jane Tune*, RN, director of nursing, Oklahoma Forensic Center, designee for the secretary of health; *Dr. Carole Sullivan*, College of Allied Health, representing the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; *Dr. Steve Eddy*, associate professor of family medicine, director of continuing medical education, representing the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences; *Dr. Sherri Baker*, representing the Oklahoma State Medical Association; *Dr. Michael K. Cooper*, representing the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association;

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and *Marietta Lynch*, RN, director of quality services, Oklahoma Association of Health Care Providers, representing the long-term care industry.

Primary goals of the Center are to: 1) Ensure Oklahoma's current education and training systems have the resources and support necessary to produce the number of health care workers needed; 2) Increase the job satisfaction and retention rates of current health care workers; and 3) Increase the level of awareness among young people and adults of the opportunities available in health care; therefore, increasing the number of individuals entering a health career.

If current trends continue, Oklahoma is expected to have a shortage of more than 3,000 nurses, 500 lab technicians, 400 physical therapists, 300 surgical technologists and 200 occupational therapists by 2012. Other clinical workers in short supply include pharmacists, imaging technologists and respiratory therapists.

To date, support for the Center has come from in-kind contributions or commitments from the following organizations: the Oklahoma Hospital Association, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, OU Medical Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Nurses Association, and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. A public/private partnership, funding options for the Center could include: monetary contributions, in-kind donations or services, public or private foundation grants, contractual arrangements, fee-for-service products, and state or federal appropriated dollars.

The Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center is housed in the Presbyterian Research Park, Oklahoma City, and is a new affiliate of the Communities Foundation of Oklahoma (CFO). CFO serves as a vehicle for donors across the state of Oklahoma to contribute assets to charitable concerns of their choice.

For more information on the Oklahoma Health Care Workforce Center, go to [www.okhealthcareworkforce.com](http://www.okhealthcareworkforce.com), or call (405) 319-8690.