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CARLISLE CONFIRMED AS OSHPD DIRECTOR

The California State Senate today confirmed the appointment of David Carlisle, M.D., Ph.D., as Director of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Following is Carlisle's written statement submitted to the Senate Rules Committee prior to his confirmation:

"I appreciate the opportunity to share with you and the other Members of the Senate Rules Committee my goals for the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. I come to this Administration with 15 years experience as a practicing physician and as an academic researcher. I served in the National Health Service Corps for two years at the Watts Health Center, worked for one year with the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, and have been a member of the regular faculty of the UCLA School of Medicine for nine years. My research work encompassed the areas of quality of care and the utilization of health services. I continue to see patients as a volunteer physician at the Venice Family Clinic.

"My many years of hands-on experience with health care in California, combined with my service as a consumer representative on several OSHPD advisory committees, have played a major role in developing my vision for the Office. I seek to rekindle appreciation for the Office's contributions to our State's health care system and ultimately, to the health of all Californians. As Director of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, I have three major goals for the Office, each representing significant shifts in its organizational culture: promoting health care accessibility, informing health policy, and increasing organizational effectiveness.

"My first goal is to redefine the overall mission of the Office. I would like the Office to be known as a state department with the chief purpose of promoting health care **accessibility**. By accessibility I mean making sure that our health care facilities and health care providers are available where they are needed. The accessibility of healthcare services is a vital component along the continuum to optimal health. Indeed, it is a central component of our Administration's hallmark effort to promote healthy California communities. Health care accessibility is important to every Californian, whether uninsured or insured, rural or urban. OSHPD is uniquely situated to bring together and enhance a number of programs — both internal and external — to improve accessibility to health care.

"One such effort is our contribution to the training of a health care workforce that is effective in providing health care to California's diverse populations, particularly the underserved. The Office does this through a comprehensive umbrella of workforce programs such as the Song-Brown Training Program, the Health Careers Training Program, and the Health Professions Education Foundation, each dedicated to enhancing workforce availability. Building upon our track record by responding to pressing issues such as potential nursing shortages is my immediate plan for the Office.

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“Health facility support and development also promote accessibility to health care. Our Cal-Mortgage Program insures low interest rate loans that facilitate capital expansion of California’s health care facilities, including hospitals, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers and clinics, with particular emphasis on facilities serving communities that would otherwise have limited accessibility to such care. Cal-Mortgage will play an important role in providing access to needed capital for our hospitals as they implement the retrofitting requirements of the Seismic Safety Act. Additionally, our Facilities Development Division also assures health care accessibility by ensuring that health care facilities are of highest structural and functional integrity.

“Accessibility to healthcare information is critical to all stakeholders in health care delivery, from providers, purchasers, regulators and policymakers to researchers and consumers. Within the next couple of years, the Office will broaden the scope of available information to include emergency room and free-standing ambulatory surgery center data. The Office will make such data more available via electronic portals such as the World Wide Web. As a physician and researcher, I have relied upon OSHPD’s objective and accurate health information, and I look forward to the addition of clinical data to better monitor and improve the quality of health care in California. Indeed, dissemination of the findings of our risk-adjusted outcomes studies promotes accessibility to high quality health care by consumers and purchasers and encourages providers to continuously improve the care offered. I will seek to build upon OSHPD’s recognition as a national leader in this area by providing more timely, relevant, and valid studies in the future.

“My second major goal is to define OSHPD as a leader in promoting health **policy** for California. Given our informational and programmatic resources and excellent analytic and programmatic staff, the Office will become increasingly active in evaluating and anticipating California’s health care needs. I believe that such a health policy role encompasses and transcends the activities of each of our Divisions and other organizational components. In this role, the Office must strengthen and cultivate relationships with various local, state, and federal governmental entities involved in health care and health policy. The Office must become more effective in engaging our California foundations, health provider, public health and other organizations in an effective health policy dialogue. Finally, I would like the Office to develop partnerships with various diverse communities to identify ways that we may more effectively address their health care needs.

“A final major goal that I do intend to achieve is an internal organizational one: to improve the structure and function of the Office in such a way as to maximize our operating **effectiveness**. To do this, the evaluation of our programmatic areas must occur to identify relationships with each other and then devise realignment mechanisms to optimize these relationships. As a part of this activity, I will strive to implement processes that recognize and indemnify the value of each of our employees, encourage professional development and assure their role as contributors to the function, performance and, ultimately, success of the Office.

“In summary, the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development strives to improve health care accessibility and to promote sound health policy as we seek to ensure that our programs will be responsive to the diverse health care needs of all Californians. In my tenure as Director, OSHPD will become a vital participant in discussions and strategies to maximize access to quality health care in, and for, California.”

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