



April 1, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Central Susquehanna Citizens Coalition presents  
**Re-Imagining Healthcare in Pennsylvania:  
The Next Five Years and Beyond**

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**  
Union County Government Center, 155 N 15<sup>th</sup> St., Lewisburg

LEWISBURG, PA - The Central Susquehanna Citizens Coalition will present a public forum titled "Re-Imagining Healthcare in PA: The Next Five Years and Beyond" on Thursday, May 7 at 7:00pm at the Union County Government Center located at 155 N 15<sup>th</sup> St., Lewisburg. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 570.523.6059 or visit [www.cscenow.org](http://www.cscenow.org).

In a recent survey, the Central Susquehanna Citizens Coalition (CSCC) found that healthcare was one of the most pressing concerns of Valley residents. This panel discussion marks the first of a regular series of CSCC-sponsored public forums addressing key issues of broad interest to the community. As CSCC co-chair Jove Graham said, "The U.S. spends over \$2 trillion a year on its healthcare, far more than any other country, but we are still not the healthiest nation. As healthcare costs keep increasing, so does the cost of health insurance for individuals and employers. Over 46 million Americans are without health insurance. The question is, what can we do to solve the immediate challenges facing healthcare in our community and our state? CSCC decided to convene a group of panelists with different perspectives and areas of expertise to address that question."

The panel will feature five distinguished healthcare professionals from across Pennsylvania. **Allison Clark** is the Executive Director of ACTION Health, a collaborative partnership among six hospitals in the Central Susquehanna Valley that provides community health outreach and education. **Jill Fecker** is the Community Liaison for A Community Clinic, Inc., a non-profit agency that assists the uninsured population gain access to high quality healthcare through a network of volunteer physicians and services provided by area hospitals. **Chuck Pennacchio** is the Executive Director of Healthcare for All Pennsylvania, an organization founded to educate the public and government officials in support of legislation that achieves comprehensive and fair healthcare coverage for everyone in Pennsylvania through a single-payer system. **Andrew Sandusky** is the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, a group that supports family physicians through advocacy and education to ensure a patient-centered physician-coordinated medical home for residents of PA. **Amy Wolaver**, Assistant Professor of Economics at Bucknell University, is a leader in the field of employer-provided health insurance policy research and teaches courses in health policy and health economics.

The format of the panel discussion will be 10-minute presentations by each of the five panelists, followed by over 30 minutes of interactive discussion where audience members are encouraged to ask questions and participate in the conversation.

**Allison Clark**, Executive Director of ACTION Health, has worked in several health/human service areas throughout the local communities, including working in violence prevention and intervention, establishment of hospital policies, direct client interventions on several topic areas, multi-county program management, and staffing management. Ms. Clark received her BA in Psychology from Bloomsburg University, and has worked with ACTION Health since January 2006. She will discuss some of the largest health concerns in the Central Susquehanna River Valley surrounding unmanaged chronic

CSCC- *Shortest Path from Conviction to Action*  
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diseases, and how better health outcomes can be achieved through education, prevention, and collaborative systems between the community and health care providers. She will also describe the many ways that interested community members can become involved and engaged in improving our healthcare systems through volunteer efforts, establishing and maintaining partnerships, and community advocacy.

**Jill Fecker** is the Community Liaison and Office Assistant for A Community Clinic, Inc. in Sunbury, where she has worked since 2006. Ms. Fecker graduated from Susquehanna University with a BA in Biology and teaches sixth-grade health science in Selinsgrove. She has extensive experience as a volunteer for organizations such as the Central Susquehanna Valley United Way, Parent Teachers' Association, Shikellamy school board, and served over 20 years on the board of the Degenstein Library. Ms. Fecker will be discussing the work of A Community Clinic in the Valley, from its inception as part of ACTION Health to its branching off as an independent entity. She will discuss the numbers and types of patients they treat, and also what their needs are and how the community can help to improve healthcare in our region.

**Chuck Pennacchio**, Executive Director of Healthcare for All Pennsylvania, is history program director at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, founder of Citizen Solutions for Pennsylvania, and a recent United States Senate candidate (2006). A longtime advocate of publicly financed, privately provided universal healthcare, and organizing veteran of 34 years, Mr. Pennacchio negotiated comprehensive health benefits for thousands of working graduate students while at the University of Colorado. A native of Delaware County and resident of Bucks County, he will discuss a state-level, single-payer healthcare solution as the "tipping point" opportunity capable of triggering dramatic turnarounds on numerous fronts (social, economic, legal) and at all levels (local, national, and international).

**Andrew Sandusky** is the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) and has worked with the PAFP since September of 2000. Mr. Sandusky directs the flow of policy position making in the areas of government affairs by providing substantive and political analyses to decision-making bodies of the PAFP, and fosters indirect lobbying by PAFP physician members through timely communications and education efforts. He has worked as a legislative staff member in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and was previously employed as a legislative specialist for the ARC of Greater Pittsburgh. Mr. Sandusky earned his BA in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh, is currently matriculating at the Pennsylvania State University towards a Masters of Public Administration, and lives in Upper Allen Township, PA. Mr. Sandusky will discuss the patient-centered medical home, a health care delivery model where a patient's personal primary care physician leads a health care delivery team dedicated to providing comprehensive and continuous care, leading to lower costs, higher quality and more efficiency within the system.

**Amy Wolaver** is an Associate Professor of Economics at Bucknell University, teaching courses in introductory economics, intermediate microeconomic theory, healthcare policy, health economics and a team-taught course on HIV/AIDS. Her primary research interests are in health insurance coverage, family planning policy, and the determinants and impacts of substance use. She received her PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1998. Dr. Wolaver will discuss the comprehensive healthcare reform policy implemented in Massachusetts several years ago, and the lessons from Massachusetts that can give policy makers in Pennsylvania and at the federal level some information about alternative strategies for increasing coverage of the uninsured.

CSCC is a non-profit, all-volunteer grassroots organization centered in Union County that also reaches out to the rest of the Central Susquehanna Valley to connect, inform and encourage its members to participate in the democratic process. CSCC works to realize a shared, progressive vision of a society that is stronger, freer and more just. This event was made possible through the support of voluntary donations from CSCC members.

**WHAT:** Re-Imagining Healthcare in Pennsylvania: The Next Five Years and Beyond

**SUMMARY:** A panel of five healthcare professionals will present their perspectives on the current state of healthcare in Pennsylvania, its challenges, and proposed solutions for the future, to be followed by interactive discussion with the audience.

**WHERE:** Union County Government Center  
155 N 15<sup>th</sup> St, Lewisburg

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 7, 2009  
7:00-8:30 pm

**TICKETS:** No tickets are necessary. This event is free and open to the public.

**PRESENTERS:**

<b>Allison Clark</b>	Sunbury, PA	ACTION Health
<b>Jill Fecker</b>	Sunbury, PA	A Community Clinic, Inc.
<b>Chuck Pennacchio</b>	Delaware County, PA	Healthcare for All Pennsylvania
<b>Andrew Sandusky</b>	Upper Allen Township, PA	Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians
<b>Amy Wolaver</b>	Lewisburg, PA	Department of Economics, Bucknell University

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