



# NACHC CANDIDATES' FORUM 2010

The Candidate's Forum provides a vehicle for candidates to introduce themselves to the membership prior to the Annual Convention. This year candidates will run for the offices of **Secretary, Treasurer, and Consumer/Board Member Representative**. NACHC officers serve on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and carry out functions as prescribed in the NACHC Bylaws. Beginning this year, **one Health Center Board Member and two Clinician Representatives to the NACHC Board of Directors** will also be nationally elected by the voting membership.

Voting will take place during the NACHC Community Health Institute (CHI) & EXPO (9/10-14) at the House of Delegates Meeting on Sunday, September 12, 2010, Hilton Anatole, Dallas. Organizational Members in good standing at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting (have paid at least one-quarter of their current year's dues and have no outstanding dues balance from the previous year) are eligible to cast ballots. This year's deadline for voting eligibility is **August 12, 2010**. Each Organizational Member receives four votes. For more information about dues or voting status, please contact the NACHC Membership Department at 301-347-0400.

## Candidate for Secretary

*(This Executive Committee Office is held for a two-year term)*

**Ricardo Guzman**

Chief Executive Officer  
Community Health & Social Services Center  
Detroit, Michigan



*Since 1970, I have had the good fortune to have worked in the community health center movement in Detroit, Michigan. Since 1982, I have served as Chief Executive Officer for the Community Health and Social Services (CHASS) Center, Inc., a FQHC organization with two Centers in the city of Detroit.*

*Since its designation as a FQHC, CHASS has been an organization member of NACHC and a member of the RIM Caucus. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to serve on different committees and workgroups.*

*For the last three years, I have chaired the Health Policy Committee, which has tackled extremely important policy issues during a period of dynamic change for health centers throughout the country.*

*I am currently seeking election to the position of Secretary for NACHC and request your support in this new leadership role. My pledge to the NACHC membership is to support the key cornerstone of the Community Health Center Movement, which is to ensure that health centers receive the necessary financial and administrative support to continue to provide high quality, comprehensive and affordable health care that is coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent, and community directed for all medically underserved populations.*

*In closing, I am currently directing the capital campaign for the construction of a new \$18 million, 48,000 sq. ft. health center and administrative facility to replace our current center located in southwest Detroit. Thanks for your consideration of my candidacy.*

# Candidate for Treasurer

(This Executive Committee Office is held for a two-year term)

*Gary M. Wiltz, MD*

Chief Executive Officer  
Teche Action Clinic  
Franklin, Louisiana



*I am Gary M. Wiltz, MD, CEO of the Teche Action Clinics, home based in Franklin, Louisiana. I arrived at Teche 28 years ago as a NHSC scholar with a 3 year service obligation. That repayment commitment has turned into a lifetime career in community health. Previously, to becoming CEO I served as Medical Director for 20 years.*

*I would first like to start off by thanking the NACHC membership for giving me the incredible opportunity and honor to have served as Secretary the past 4 years. This invaluable experience of being a member of the Executive Committee of NACHC has given me a unique insight into the complexities of the challenges in this fast paced world of Health Care Reform.*

*Who could have imagined 45 years ago that we would be here today? The pioneering visionaries who founded our movement must be proud. As recently stated, CHC's are not only about a proud past -- they are about the future of Health Care in America.*

*We as a movement should be commended for the farsightedness we had in developing our Access For All America plan. It served as the basis for the most historical funding increase we have ever received. This success underscores the old adage that says "when we all work together there is nothing that we cannot accomplish".*

*It is with this "can do" attitude that I offer myself for the position of Treasurer. I currently serve as a member of the Finance Committee, as well as chairing the Membership Committee and we share a strong working relationship between the two. I feel my experience of preparing a budget and monitoring finances uniquely qualifies me for this position.*

*I humbly ask for your vote and support as we continue on this exciting journey.*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTINUING FOR 2010-2011

Chair of the Board: Anita Monoian, Yakima, WA

Chair Elect: Kauila Clark, Waianae, HI

Immediate Past Chair: Lil Anderson, Billings, MT

Speaker of the House: Jim Luisi, Boston, MA

Vice Speaker of the House: Lathran Woodard, Columbia, SC



MONOIAN



CLARK



ANDERSON



LUISI



WOODARD

# Candidate for Consumer/Board Member Representative

(This Executive Committee Office is held for a two-year term)

*Michael Wurtsmith*

**Board Chair  
Thunder Bay Community Health Services  
Hillman, Michigan**



*I am seeking reelection as NACHC Consumer/Board Member Representative. I have served since 1993 as a Consumer/Board Member on the Board of Thunder Bay Community Health Services in Northeast Michigan, and as the Board Chair since 1998. We have grown from 4,000 users to currently serving almost 15,000; and from one site to four sites, expanding primary care services to add dental, mental health and pharmacy.*

*I have served on the Executive Board of the Michigan Primary Care Association as the Consumer/Board Representative; was elected Board Secretary and Chair of the Membership Committee. I received MPCA's Ralph C. Mills Award as Consumer Board Member of the Year in 1998 and 2006.*

*I began my national level involvement as a NACHC member in 1998. I have served on the Consumer/Board Member Committee as member and Chair, Rural Health Committee as member and Vice Chair, Governance Committee as Chair, Membership Committee as member and Vice Chair and as a member of the Legislative Committee.*

*In these changing times, it is critical that the role of consumer board members continues to be strongly represented on the national level with an experienced strong voice. I have been that strong voice on the NACHC Executive Committee. We have had many opportunities to advocate for a full majority consumer board as a FQHC requirement and as we go forward there will be many who will fight to remove that requirement. As your Consumer /Board Representative I am strongly committed to keeping that requirement on the books.*

*The Consumer/Board Member Representative should work to expand NACHC membership and encourage member involvement as advocates. During my tenure I have traveled to many state PCA meetings representing NACHC and Consumers. If reelected, I will continue to be a strong voice for all consumers and I ask for your support.*

## HOCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

*I have been interested in primary care for the underserved since the beginning of my career. As part of my training I spent two months in rural Nicaragua, and a year in post residency fellowship refining my skills in ambulatory practice and health care administration and policy. Shortly after joining Harbor, I also matriculated through an MPH program at the Harvard School of Public Health.*

*I have always had a strong belief that health centers were ideal settings where health care providers could and should make career commitments. Towards that goal, I recognized the importance of clinical leadership and the critical need for strong and effective partnerships between clinical and administrative leadership. I have spent my career working toward that goal at a local, state, regional, and national level.*

*This is a truly exciting time to be involved in the Community Health Center movement. I look forward to continuing the opportunity of serving as a member of the NACHC Board.*

# Candidate for Health Center Board Member Representative to the NACHC Board of Directors

(Two-year term)



## *Rita Sorrento*

Board Chair  
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center  
East Boston, Massachusetts

*I have been in love with East Boston my whole life. Born and raised there, I have had the great honor of teaching multiple generations of children over a 40-year career in my community's public schools. Beginning as an elementary school teacher and ultimately serving as a principal, my experiences afforded me a unique perspective on the neighborhood's changing demographics and needs.*

*Although dominated by Italian-Americans through much of my life, East Boston has always been a destination for diverse groups. Beginning in the late 1980s, a new wave of immigrants hailed from Latin America, helping to revitalize local businesses and housing abandoned by middle class families a decade before. Working with these families every day, I soon recognized that many of them did not have access to insurance or, more importantly, to quality health care that recognized their cultural and linguistic backgrounds.*

*That's when I discovered the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. Driven by its core mission to provide health care to anyone in need, the center was grappling with how to better serve these families. Emphasizing the importance of community empowerment, CEO Jack Cradock and Medical Director Jim Taylor instantly won me over and when I joined the board in 1993, it was like coming home.*

*Through the encouragement of Jack and Jim, I began to pursue connections with other local boards and our state association, ultimately leading to my involvement with NACHC over the last 12 years. In 2009, I was chosen from among the New England health centers to serve as a rotating member on the NACHC Board. Serving in this position has been an honor and a privilege. If elected to the new national seat, I will stay true to the promise and mission of NACHC. I ask for your vote in Dallas this September.*

## **HORWOOD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

*Health care reform, whatever form it takes, will present us with many new challenges. The anticipated rapid expansion of access for patients will be difficult for us to meet, new locations, providers and staff. Others include electronic health records (and electronic HIPPA standards), immigration reform and provider shortages.*

*We risk being pressured to move focus away from the care of our patients to the growth of our business. I would like to give back to NACHC by becoming a clinician representative to the NACHC board to help keep our focus, as we expand, where my passion began, and remains . . . with one room, one patient, and one family at a time and providing them with what **all deserve -- a quality health care home.***

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## Candidates for Clinician Representative to the NACHC Board of Directors

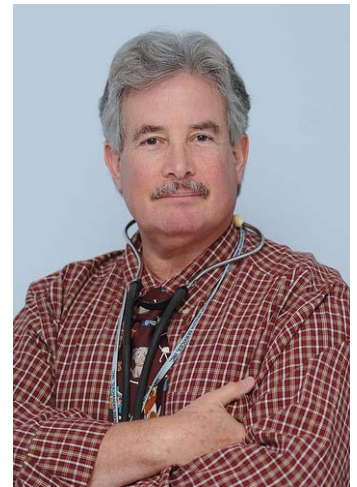
(Two-year term NOTE: to establish staggered terms, this year TWO representatives will be elected, with one serving a one-year term.)

### *Robert Hoch, MD*

**Chief Medical Officer  
Harbor Health Services  
Boston, Massachusetts**

*For those of you who don't know me, I am a practicing Pediatrician and Chief Medical Officer for Harbor Health Services in Boston. I started with Neponset Health Center in 1980, which at the time was a small three physician and two NP practice. Neponset merged with Columbia Point Health Center (the nation's first health center) in 1985 to form Harbor Health Services. Harbor has grown and expanded since then, providing more services to more patients.*

*Harbor is now a multi sited community health center system providing over 120,000 patient visits per year to over 25,000 patients. There is a provider staff of over 100 and a total staff of over 400. In addition to the health centers Harbor also operates a regional WIC program, an infant and toddler day care program, and a PACE model program for frail elders. (CONTINUED, PAGE 3)*

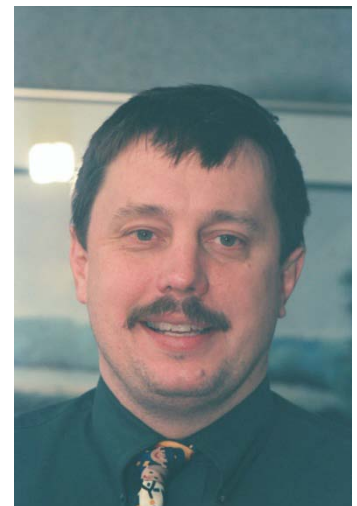


### *Keith Horwood, MD*

**Medical Director  
Community Health Centers  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

*When I started at CHC in SLC in 1989, I found my home with my patients, one room, one patient, one family at a time. On becoming medical director in 1996, I discovered that I needed to think bigger: a whole neighborhood, a larger community, more than one health problem at a time, but I had no training for that.*

*AUCH (Association for Utah Community Health) and CHAMPS (Community of Health Association of Mountain/ Plains States) and NACHC helped me to do that. Trainings provided, conferences attended and mentors and colleagues to share with and learn from helped me to step up to that challenge, including serving as a clinician member of the NACHC Board in 2006-7. (CONTINUED, PAGE 4)*



### *Grace Wang, MD, MPA*

**Medical Director  
International Community Health Centers  
Seattle, Washington**

*I was raised by immigrant parents who instilled in me a deep appreciation for service and advocacy. For the past 20 years I have had the good fortune to also be a part of the NACHC family and the community health center movement where I have been given the opportunity to incorporate service and advocacy in my professional life. I have great passion for community and public health and it would be an honor to serve as your Clinician Representative to the NACHC Board of Directors. I am a creative problem solver and value open direct communication. I am committed to keeping our movement strong and moving forward with an unwavering focus on quality, our mission and the health of our communities. Thank you for your support*

