EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RESOLUTION: Resolution of the Board of Directors In Support of the Addendum to the "A Region in Crisis: A Call to Reduce the Uninsured and Expand Access to Health Care in the Ten-County Houston Region" White Paper

FROM: Dr. Larry R. Kaiser, Chairman, Health Care Policy Advisory Committee

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Since the Greater Houston Partnership adopted its "A Region in Crisis: A Call to Reduce the Uninsured and Expand Access to Health Care in the Ten-County Houston Region" white paper on the critical weaknesses in the ten-county Houston region's health care system, federal health care reform has been passed.

While the Affordable Care Act addresses several of the issues discussed in the white paper, especially those related to reducing the number of uninsured, provisions related to expansion of coverage will not begin to be implemented until 2014. Even with full implementation, Texas will still have more than 2.4 million uninsured residents, and it is estimated that approximately 25 percent, or roughly 600,000, will reside in the Houston region. While the reductions from the current 6.5 million uninsured in the state and 1.8 million in Houston are significant, the Greater Houston area will still be faced with the largest uninsured rate in the country.

Moreover, the health reform bill does not fully address many of the fundamental problems that will continue to plague the Houston region's health care system, such as the lack of safety net providers and the fragmentation of the current infrastructure. The bottom line is that despite the sweeping changes in the insurance and health care industries brought by the Affordable Care Act, it is critical that the region confront problems in indigent health care, and by extension, the problems that threaten the strength of the entire regional health care system.

The addendum outlines how national health reform impacts the direction of the "A Region in Crisis" white paper and why the Greater Houston Partnership must continue to advance the recommendations proposed.

Greater Houston Partnership **December 20, 2010**

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The Affordable Care Act (the final consolidated law of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the amendments to the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, hereinafter referred as the "Affordable Care Act"), signed into law on March 23, 2010, addresses several of the issues discussed in the white paper, especially those related to reducing the number of uninsured.

However, provisions related to expansion of coverage will not begin to be implemented until 2014. Even with full implementation, Texas will still have more than 2.4 million uninsured residents, and it is estimated that approximately 25 percent, or roughly 600,000, will reside in the Houston region. While the reductions from the current 6.5 million uninsured in the state and 1.8 million in Houston are significant, the Greater Houston area will still be faced with the largest uninsured rate in the country.

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Patrick Oxford, Chairman

Jeff Moseley, President and CEO

Larry Kellner, Secretary

BACKGROUND MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 20, 2010

TO: Greater Houston Partnership Board of Directors

FROM: Dr. Larry R. Kaiser, Chairman
Health Care Policy Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Resolution of the Board of Directors In Support of the Addendum to the "A Region in Crisis: A Call to Reduce the Uninsured and Expand Access to Health Care in the Ten-County Houston Region" White Paper

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RECOMMENDATION

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BACKGROUND

Please see attached white paper addendum.

LEGISLATION NEEDED

There is no legislation required to support the white paper addendum.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Greater Houston Partnership.

KNOWN OPPOSITION

There is no known opposition.

RESOURCES REQUIRED

This recommendation can be implemented with available Greater Houston Partnership staff and within current operating budget resources.