



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Officers Selected at Second Meeting of Health  
Information Technology and Transparency Board  
*Commissioner also names new members to the Ad Hoc Committee***

**ATLANTA** – On Wednesday, December 13, 2006, the Health Information Technology and Transparency (HITT) Advisory Board met at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta.

The 12-member board and ad hoc advisory committee were given a private tour of Piedmont Hospital's health information technology applications. Before the board meeting, Piedmont also gave a demonstration of their telemedicine program, which enables Piedmont physicians to provide specialty healthcare via a teleconferencing system to patients at small rural hospitals.

The HITT Advisory Board also selected a chair and vice chair to govern the board and run future meetings. Russell Williams, president of the Georgia Health Care Association, was selected as chairman and Chris Downing, regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was selected as vice chairman.

Former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, who is the founder of the Center for Health Transformation, addressed the group by speaking on "Saving Lives and Saving Money: Transforming Health and Healthcare in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

The Department of Community Health Commissioner, Dr. Rhonda Medows, also named three new members to the ad hoc advisory committee.

**New Members of Ad Hoc Advisory Committee**

**Duane A. Kavka** – Kavka is with the Georgia Association of Primary Health Care, Inc.

**Laura Linn** – Linn is with the Centers for Health Transformation.

**Glenn E. Pearson** – Pearson is with the Georgia Health Information Exchange and the Georgia Hospital Association.

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**About the Department of Community Health**

The Georgia Department of Community Health champions:

ACCESS to affordable, quality health care in our communities

RESPONSIBLE health planning and use of health care resources  
HEALTHY behaviors and improved health outcomes

Equal Opportunity Employer