



## Center for Health Transformation E-Newsletters

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July 2007

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### Newt Notes

Contrary to the work slow-down reported by many businesses this time of year, the Center for Health Transformation has had a very busy summer. Among our many recent activities, there are a few I want to highlight in this month's report:

#### **New CHT Diabetes Project with Dominique Wilkins**

As a part of the [Healthy Georgia Diabetes & Obesity Project](#), NBA Hall-of-Famer Dominique Wilkins and I have teamed up to fight diabetes in Georgia. Called '[Nique and Newt's Full-Court Press on Diabetes](#)', the initiative is designed to increase awareness, detection and prevention of diabetes and its complications, with a special focus on preventing children and high-risk populations from developing the disease and its complications.

Unless we are able to successfully promote long-term healthy behavior among the U.S. population – especially in children – complications from diabetes- and obesity-related conditions are going to create untold tragedy for the people of America and financially overwhelm our health system. Having someone of

Dominique's stature working with us on this initiative offers great promise for us to make a real difference and expand our reach to new audiences and new venues.

Please see our [Project Spotlight](#) for additional details about this project. You can also [click here](#) to watch a video clip of a recent event we did together.

## **Electronic Epidemiology**

On July 24, the Center for Health Transformation hosted a CHT Roundtable on electronic epidemiology: the routine, evidence-driven, and aggressive leveraging of large health record datasets for pre-clinical and clinical research, outcome analysis, quality and safety management, and public health. Thirty thought leaders from government and CHT member organizations participated in the day-long discussion held in our DC office, including senior leaders from [NCI](#), [FDA](#), [CDC](#), [CMS](#), [AHRQ](#) and [ONCHIT](#).

CHT member [Booz Allen Hamilton](#) facilitated the meeting for us and is currently preparing a report summarizing key findings from the discussion. We will let you know as soon as it is available and look forward to discussing it with you. This roundtable was an important foundation for further work at CHT on this component of a 21st Century Intelligent Health System, and we welcome your active collaboration with us as we advance this opportunity for the nation. If you would like more information, please contact Robert Egge at the Center.

## **Expansion of State Impact: State Think Tank Meeting at CHT**

Also on July 24th, Jim Frogue and I met with Tracie Sharp, the President of the [State Policy Network](#) and 12 CEOs of state-based, free market think tanks. Each CEO spoke of the most pressing issues facing their state. Health care costs in general and Medicaid costs specifically were right at the top.

We discussed with them ideas to promote more consumerism, competition, and transparency in healthcare. We also invited each CEO to be an on-line host of our 3rd annual, "Creating a 21st Century Medicaid System" event on September 18th and

distributed copies of [The Art of Transformation](#) and [Making Medicaid Work](#) to all attendees.

That evening I was in Philadelphia to speak at the Leadership Dinner of the American Legislative Exchange Council's 34th Annual Meeting. [ALEC](#) is the nation's oldest and largest bipartisan organization of state legislators committed to the Jeffersonian principles of limited government. ALEC boasts public and private sector members from all 50 states. Over 250 people were in attendance at the Leadership Dinner, giving us a great opportunity to expand our ideas related to health transformation to state leaders across the country.

### **Physician Roundtable**

Last week I had a roundtable with physicians in Georgia to discuss how to improve the care of individuals with diabetes. The group included endocrinologists, pediatric endocrinologists, family physicians, physicians from both urban and rural areas, and other physician leaders. We had a very substantive discussion on the challenges in providing care for those with diabetes and those at risk for diabetes in today's environment.

One method to improving care that the Center for Health Transformation is supporting is pay for performance. The Center is leading one of the nation's largest pay for performance programs through [Bridges to Excellence](#), a program in which physicians who have attained recognition in quality diabetes care by [NCQA](#) receive financial bonuses from participating employers. The number of recognized physicians in Georgia has increased from 5 to over 120 as a result of our work there.

We will continue our dialogue with physicians, develop a white paper on solutions for improving the care of individuals with diabetes, and communicate those successful models of care. In addition, their input will continue to be helpful in identifying health policies that are needed at the state and federal level to maximize quality patient care.

### **Capitol Hill Alert**

The House and Senate are moving to reauthorize the [State Children's Health Insurance Program \(SCHIP\)](#) before it expires on September 30. The one thing the leading House and Senate bills have in common is a dramatic expansion of the program at the expense of private insurance. Each bill encourages states to enroll not just poor children, as the original authorization called for, but middle and upper class families as well—most of which already have private insurance. A smarter approach is to focus the program on covering poor or near-poor children only, and extending vouchers to their parents to purchase private insurance. Private markets are far more effective and efficient than Washington-controlled bureaucratic healthcare, and the reauthorization of SCHIP should reflect this fact.

While the House bill, [H.R. 3162](#), masquerades as a children's health insurance bill, it actually sows the seeds of eliminating private insurance as we know it. It does this by: 1) virtually destroying the Medicare Advantage program through \$159 billion worth of budget cuts; 2) raising taxes on every senior and every American who owns private insurance through a new, hidden premium tax; and 3) stopping in its tracks the Health Opportunity Account demonstration program in Medicaid, which introduces consumerism to the program. For a Congress that has the lowest public approval rating in history, one has to wonder why its leaders think that raising taxes, cutting Medicare benefits for seniors, moving towards Washington-controlled bureaucratic healthcare is the answer. This is not the kind of transformation the American people want or deserve.

For more details about this bill, [click here](#) for an op-ed that project director Dave Merritt and I wrote in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

### **New CHT Publication**

CHT CEO Nancy Desmond and I recently released a new workbook titled [Implementing the Art of Transformation](#). The workbook, adapted from our recent book *The Art of Transformation*, is designed to serve as a citizen's guide to transformation. Information about ordering the book can be found at our website at

## Project Spotlight

### NIQUE AND NEWT'S FULL-COURT PRESS ON DIABETES

NBA Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins and former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich recently launched a joint CHT initiative to fight diabetes in Georgia and beyond.

The project, called "[Nique and Newt's Full-Court Press on Diabetes](#)," is designed to increase awareness, detection and prevention of diabetes and its complications, with a special focus on preventing children and high-risk populations from developing the disease and its complications.

Last week, as part of the initiative, CHT became a sponsor of the [National Black Arts Festival](#) in Atlanta, where we spent nine days hosting a booth at Greenbriar Mall and Atlantic Station. With the help of [Novo Nordisk](#), the Institute for Wellness, the [Diabetes Association of Atlanta](#), and the [American Association of Diabetes Educators](#), we screened nearly 1000 at-risk individuals, gave out more than 1800 pedometers to people we counseled on the benefits of walking and distributed thousands of flyers and brochures about diabetes prevention, control and management.

The CDC has predicted that, if current trends continue, one of every three children born in 2000 will develop diabetes – with the ratio among African-American and Latino children predicted to be even higher. Diabetes is the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S. and the leading cause of adult blindness, disease-related amputations, end stage kidney diseases, and dialysis. In conjunction with Dominique and our CHT members, we will continue to leverage high-profile events to deliver our message to

the public, key policy-makers and those most at-risk, in order to turn these numbers around.

“Unless we are able to successfully promote long-term healthy behavior among the U.S. population – especially in children – complications from diabetes- and obesity-related conditions are going to create untold tragedy for the people of America and financially overwhelm our health system,” Newt said at the launch of the new initiative. “Having someone of Dominique’s stature working with us on this initiative offers great promise for us to make a real difference in the health and the lives of our children and grandchildren.”

Dominique, who was diagnosed with diabetes seven years ago, first discussed working with CHT to defeat diabetes when he attended an event in Columbus, Georgia where Newt spoke about [CHT’s Healthy Georgia Diabetes and Obesity Project](#).

Dominique, who has been involved with the [Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation](#) and with several other community efforts to defeat diabetes, said, “What the Center for Health Transformation has been doing, both in Georgia and nationally, is vitally important. I believe, by working together, we can turn the tide on diabetes and create a better, healthier future for Americans everywhere.”

If you would like additional information on working with or becoming a sponsor of this new project, please contact CHT CEO Nancy Desmond at [ndesmond@gingrichgroup.com](mailto:ndesmond@gingrichgroup.com).

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## **Transforming Solutions**

### **HealthPia America**

*Healthpia America introduces the world's first, all-in-one,*

*glucometer cell phone and service for managing diabetes remotely. Whether you're a guardian, physician, or healthcare institution, you can provide 24/7 support and emergency intervention to Diabetes Phone subscribers – anytime, anywhere. It's a full disease management system.*

### **Situation**

Medical expenses for people with diabetes are over \$13,000 per person per year, while expenses for those without diabetes are under \$2,700. The staggering difference in amounts is mainly due to complications from diabetes

### **Solution**

A prevention of complications can be accomplished by intervention and effective care. HealthPia's Diabetes Cell Phone helps a patient comply with a physician's instructions by providing a programmed educational alert wirelessly via a cell phone. The data measured is automatically stored in a central center which connects to the caregiver, the physician and/or the disease management provider in real time.

### **Better Health & Lower Cost**

In Korea, an early stage clinical data shows improving HbA1c (control group: 8.4 and Diabetes Phone group: 7.3) and lower fluctuation of HbA1c (control group: 0.79 and Diabetes Phone group: 0.45).

*For more information, visit the [CHT website](#) and view the [Transforming Example](#).*

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## **CHT in the News**

### **Health Bill Contains 'Hidden Tax Increase'**

In a new op-ed, CHT Founder Newt Gingrich and Project Director David Merritt discuss how the House SCHIP bill will raise taxes on every senior citizen and every American who owns health

insurance. ([The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#))

### **'Nique and Newt Team up for Black Arts Festival in Atlanta**

On July 26th, NBA Hall-of-Famer Dominique Wilkins and CHT founder Newt Gingrich appeared together to continue their full court press on diabetes. ([Peach Buzz](#); [Press Release](#))

### **Health IT Legislation Needs to be a 2007 Priority**

In an [iHealthBeat](#) Special Report, CHT Project Director David Merritt discusses the plan for comprehensive health IT legislation.

### **Satisfaction with Health Status is Consistent Around the World**

In a [Health Affairs](#) web exclusive, CHT founder Newt Gingrich and Gallup chairman and CEO Jim Clifton discuss findings from the Gallup World Poll on how citizens of the world view their health.

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## **Members Update**

The Center for Health Transformation is pleased to recognize [BlueCross BlueShield Association](#), [Booz Allen Hamilton](#), and [Cancer Treatment Centers of America](#) for renewing at the Charter level; and [D2Hawkeye](#) and [HealthTrio](#) at the Premier level.

*Please visit the [list of members](#) often to keep abreast of who is joining the Center or the "[Member News](#)" page to learn about the awards or honors won by our members.*

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## **Upcoming Events**

**Jim Frogue to address "Better Health, Lower Cost for You and Your Employees" at the Indiana Department of Insurance**

*Indianapolis, IN  
August 3, 2007*

**Jim Frogue to be a moderator at the “The Federal Perspective on Health Care Reform” at Phrma’s 2007 Medical Liability Meeting**

*Bachelor Gulch, CO  
August 7, 2007*

**Jim Frogue to address the Republican Study Group, Arizona House of Representatives**

*Phoenix, AZ  
August 16, 2007*

**CHT's 3rd Annual Creating a 21st Century Medicaid System**

*Washington, DC  
September 18, 2007*

**David Merritt to speak at the 2nd Annual Georgia Healthcare Trade Faire & Regional Conference**

*September 23, 2007  
Atlanta, GA*

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