

April 19, 2007

Selected news from GFCN's weekly update

Kudos to CMAP!

[CMAP honoring service to needy](#) (The Brunswick News, March 27, 2007) - "...This is possible, said Kota, through collaboration among the medical community, faith-based organizations, local businesses and volunteers. 'It's a blending of local, state and national resources that makes this happen,' Kota said, adding that the most help comes from the local level. In just five years, the organization has recorded more than \$12 million in free prescription and primary care services. This was initiated, says Kota, by a \$187,000 grant from the state of Georgia's Office of Rural Health Services." - click on the article link to read the rest of the article:

http://www.thebrunswicknews.com/open_access/news/288493424297375.php

Health Care Coverage in America: Understanding the Issues and Proposed Solutions

Several times since the 1940s, Americans have engaged in nationwide discussions about how to provide health insurance to those who don't have it, and how to help people keep their health insurance. We are in the midst of another such discussion now. Government officials, political candidates, employers, unions, community leaders and ordinary citizens are saying the nation's health care system should be improved and its benefits should be made more widely available. [Alliance for Health Reform, updated March 2007]

http://www.allhealth.org/publications/Uninsured/Health_Care_Coverage_in_America_2007_54.pdf

Embracing Health: Tools and Systems for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

This report was created from the consensus of more than 200 physicians, healthcare thought leaders, policymakers, patients and payers. It challenges the status quo of the existing healthcare system by calling for the alignment of incentives to help prevent the onset of chronic disease - the nation's number one killer. It also provides the elements of a national preventive health system and calls for Americans to rethink the very definition of wellness to include everyone, regardless of health status, age or the presence of disease or disability. [Healthways, 4-3-07] http://www.healthways.com/articles/press/2007-04-04_Outcomes_Summit.html

Mass. Health Plan Finds Cost Is Too High for 20% of People

Massachusetts regulators Thursday tackled a difficult question: What is considered affordable health insurance? In an answer that pleased many of the state's patient advocates, the board overseeing the first-in-the-nation effort to require everyone to carry insurance exempted up to 20% of the state's estimated 328,000 uninsured adults from penalties if they do not purchase coverage. For that 20%...even the lowest-cost insurance plans made available through the law enacted one year ago may not be affordable. [USA Today, 4-13-07] http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/2007-04-13-mass-usat_N.htm?csp=34