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## **New Community-Based Commission to Help Define Rochester Region's Future Health System**

*"2020 Commission" of health, business and other community leaders to oversee  
FLHSA study of health system's comprehensive infrastructure needs*

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Jan. 18, 2008 – The future of the Greater Rochester region's health care system and its infrastructure needs are the focus of a community-based commission established by the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA).

The 2020 Commission, a group of more than 15 community leaders, will oversee FLHSA's "Community Health System 2020" study, an in-depth assessment of the capital investment and modernization needs for the next generation of health care in the Rochester/Finger Lakes region. Specifically, the committee will examine:

- What the region needs to maintain a high-performing and accessible health care system, such as capacity and modernization of equipment.
- The estimated costs of modernization and capital replacements by area hospital systems, including hospital services, major medical equipment and acute care beds.
- How much the community can afford to spend on health care in light of limited resources and other fiscal priorities.
- How and where resources should be placed to ensure a regional health system that is safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered.

Due to aging equipment that is in need of repair, replacement or expansion - and the desire to keep pace amid changing technology - FLHSA officials said they expect virtually all area hospital systems in the six-county Finger Lakes region will propose major capital or renovation projects within the next five to 10 years, which could amount to more than \$1 billion.

"With our health care system and this much money at stake, our community cannot afford 20/20 hindsight years from now - it demands 20/20 foresight today," said Fran Weisberg, executive director, FLHSA. "Key stakeholders and the community as a whole must drive the decisions on whether, when, where and how this money is spent. FLHSA is convening the 2020 Commission to provide a community-wide focus through a collaborative process that will assist the state in its certificate-of-need reviews."

Stephen B. Ashley, Ashley Group chairman and CEO, Fannie Mae board chair and past ViaHealth board chair, will chair the commission. Leonard E. Redon, vice president of Western Operations at Paychex, an Excellus board member and former Unity Health board member and CTAAB board chair, will serve as vice chair.

**Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency**

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“This group has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to help shape our health system’s future,” Ashley said. “These community leaders are committed to focusing on what the region needs and can afford to ensure a high-quality, accessible health care system.”

2020 Commission members represent a broad cross-section of perspectives, expertise and experience from business, health care, higher education, government, labor and the community at large, including:

- Nancy Adams, executive director of the Monroe County Medical Society
- Gary Bonadonna, manager, UNITE HERE! Rochester Regional Joint Board
- Mark Cronin, regional vice president, American Cancer Society
- Bonnie C. DeVinney, vice president and chief program officer, Greater Rochester Health Foundation
- Robert A. Dobies, vice president and general manager, Films Business, ExxonMobil Chemical Co., and a member of the ViaHealth board of directors
- H. Taylor Fitch, county legislator, Yates County
- Tom Flynn, president, Monroe Community College
- John E. Garvey, director, Ontario County Human Resources
- Susan Holliday, president and publisher, Rochester Business Journal
- Augustin Melendez, vice president, Human Resources, Eastman Kodak Company
- The Rev. George F. Nicholas, senior pastor, Grace United Methodist Church
- Michael Nuccitelli, president & CEO, Parlec Inc., and a member of the Unity Health System board of directors
- Clayton Osborne, vice president, Human Resources, Bausch & Lomb
- Ed Pettinella, president and CEO, Home Properties Inc.
- Thomas Richards, corporation counsel, city of Rochester, and a member of the University of Rochester Medical Center board of directors
- Robert Thompson, president and CEO, Monroe Plan for Medical Care Inc.

FLHSA staff will coordinate the study and provide support to the commission. The 2020 Commission’s report will include projected costs, possible funding mechanisms, spending priorities and how expansion/modernization could be financed. Under FLHSA’s statutory authority, the New York State Department of Health is required to consider the report’s recommendations as it decides on certificate-of-need proposals from area health care providers by the end of 2008, such as the proposals already submitted by the University of Rochester Medical Center and Rochester General Hospital.

FLHSA’s Community Health System 2020 study is the second phase of the agency’s Acute Bed Need Task Force study, which will be completed at the end of January 2008. While the acute bed study is likely to include a range of the number of new acute care beds needed in the area, the second phase will recommend the geographic distribution of acute beds in the region.

#### **About FLHSA**

FLHSA ([www.flhsa.org](http://www.flhsa.org)) is an independent, regional health planning organization that promotes healthier communities by bringing stakeholders together to solve community health problems, educating people about how to make better healthcare decisions and enabling people to participate in a less-restrictive healthcare environment. The agency serves the nine counties of Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates.