



## 4. Made real progress and real change in improving health care.

- Introduced nation's first bulk-buying pool for prescription drugs. By partnering with other states, saved an additional \$8 million on prescription drugs.
- Reinstated Medicaid benefits for 40,000 parents, grandparents and caregivers who had their benefits cut under the previous administration.
- Appointed the state's first Surgeon General to focus on public health issues like teen smoking, lead poisoning prevention and obesity. Subsequently the Surgeon General developed two important documents: *Healthy Michigan 2010* and *A Prescription for a Healthier Michigan*. The first document reports on the current status of the Michigan population, in terms of prevalence of diseases, injuries, and personal health risks and behaviors. The second document outlines Dr. Wisdom's strategic priorities to preserve, protect, and promote Michigan's health.
- Fought to maintain Medicaid healthcare coverage for 40,000 of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens.
- Secured legislative passage of a major increase in the cigarette sales tax to help fill a \$295 million hole in Michigan's Medicaid budget – minimizing the cuts made in this important program.
- Launched a statewide lead poisoning prevention plan featuring expanded testing for children, increased funding and loan availability for lead abatement, and improved risk assessment.
- Applied for waiver to expand Elder Prescription Drug Program. Expanded EPIC will offer prescription drug coverage to three times as many senior citizens as have it now.
- Created 3 new and expanded 3 existing Federally Qualified Health Care centers in Michigan's cities to improve primary health care for Michigan's low-income residents.
- Signed a law reforming Michigan's insurance market for small businesses, ensuring more small businesses can afford to offer health care benefits to their employees.
- Signed a law creating a pilot program to extend health care benefits to working mothers with little or no health insurance.

- Pursued the development of and financing for the Detroit/Wayne County Health Authority to provide safety net services, facilitate care coordination, maximize revenues, and enhance efficiency. That recommendation came to fruition on August 18, 2004, when the Board of the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority held its inaugural meeting.
- Provided \$50 million in additional funding to the Detroit Medical Center to insure it could meet its mission of serving Detroit's most vulnerable residents
- Established the Michigan Medicaid Long Term Care (LTC) task force to improve community-based care for seniors, eliminate unnecessary regulatory barriers, and lessen the enormous pressure on the state's Medicaid budget.
- Established the Michigan Mental Health Commission, a temporary body appointed by executive order to reevaluate the state's publicly-funded mental health system with the ultimate goal of using its recommendations to transform Michigan's mental health system into a national model. The commission is comprised of mental health consumers, advocates, providers, representatives from law enforcement and the courts, policymakers, and the public.
- **Support the Detroit Wayne County Health Authority**

*Goal: Continue to support the DWCHA to further improve the health status of Wayne County.*

Throughout her career as a public servant Governor Granholm has been a consistent fighter for the health and well-being of Michigan's families. As Governor, she continues to fight for quality health care for Michigan citizens. In June of 2004 the Governor approved the Wayne County Health Authority in partnership with the governing bodies which included the City of Detroit, Wayne County and the State of Michigan. The Authority will move forward with implementation as it concretely addresses long term health care issues in southeast Michigan. It will address Wayne County's severely decreased population rates, coupled with increases in poverty, unemployment, uninsured citizens and poor health status. These problems have all led to the resulting erosion of Detroit's health care infrastructure. In order to address these inequities the authority created four priority objectives:

1. Provide safety net services, especially for those on Medicaid and the uninsured
2. Facilitate care coordination throughout the system
3. Maximize revenues for the entire area
4. Enhance efficiencies at every level.

The Authority will provide direction to ensure that uninsured and underinsured members of our community have access to early preventive and primary care to prevent and manage disease. In addition, the Authority will improve the connections between residents' health care needs and local resources by improving processes and removing obstacles to quality, cost-effective health care services.

- **Support the Detroit Medical Center (DMC)**

*Goal: Continue to work with the DMC to provide services to area citizens.*

In early 2003 the Detroit Medical Center faced a financial crisis. Revenue from once higher patient volumes was dwindling and cost-cutting could not offset spiraling health care costs for the DMC. With its cash reserves dwindling and the burden growing from providing free care in a city in which half the population has inadequate or no health coverage, the DMC was in danger of defaulting on loans. To address these issues, Governor Granholm issued an executive order to create the Detroit Medical Center Fiscal Stability Taskforce to advise how to improve the financial status of the DMC.

The Taskforce completed its report and recommendations in July of 2003 and the State of Michigan, the City of Detroit and Wayne County agreed to provide as much as \$50 million in public health safety net to the City of Detroit and Wayne County. 1,000 jobs were saved from elimination at Detroit Receiving Hospital and Hutzel Women's Hospital. One year following the agreement the Detroit Medical Center faces financial recovery.

- **Preserve Medicaid**

*Goal: Protect Medicaid and coverage to underserved areas.*

Since taking office in 2003, Governor Granholm has rejected cuts to the state budget that harm Medicaid eligibility and benefits. The Granholm

administration's budgetary priorities protect services for low-income families, children, the elderly and the disabled, fund managed care, and

provide Medicaid cost containment. The Governor has proposed new state revenue (through taxes on tobacco, estates, and liquor) to replace federal funding restrictions and shore up the state's safety net for its most vulnerable citizens. The Governor is committed to maintaining healthcare and protecting the state's most vulnerable citizens. The budget recommendations, as presented to the State Legislature in February 2004, reflect this continued commitment. In Wayne County alone, the state of Michigan spent \$1.94 billion on Medicaid in fiscal year 2003.

- **Protect Michigan's Children from Lead Poisoning**

*Goal: Enforce the Lead legislative package.*

The remediation of lead contaminated homes in Michigan homes is an important priority for the Granholm administration. Through the efforts of the State of Michigan Surgeon General, Dr. Kimberly Dawn Wisdom and Governor Granholm, the State of Michigan collaborated across departments including the Department of Community Health and the Department of Environmental Quality to issue a call to action in July 2003 describing a range of important lead testing and abatement legislation and policies to be undertaken. In the April 2004 legislation was signed which ensures that 80 percent of all Michigan children enrolled in Medicaid will be screening for lead exposure by 2007. This focus on reducing lead poisoning has led to the lead remediation of 54 homes in southeast Michigan - 12 in Detroit, 40 in Highland Park, and two in Hamtramck. The State of Michigan has funded 25 lead risk assessors within the city of Detroit. These assessors, acting on behalf of the Detroit Health Department, respond to complaints regarding the prevalence of lead in Detroit residences. One of the most significant accomplishments to date of the Granholm administration's focus on lead has been the remediation of lead soil at the Master Metals, Inc. industrial site within the city of Detroit. This facility has now been made lead free, along with the soil in surrounding residential properties.

- **Boost Child Immunization Rates**

*Goal: Improve the rates of child immunization in the City of Detroit.*

Governor Granholm and the State of Michigan Surgeon General, Dr. Kimberly Dawn Wisdom underscore the importance of disease prevention



to build a healthy Michigan. The office of the Surgeon General has committed its full support to boosting child immunization rates in Michigan. This commitment has focused on the City of Detroit in

particular where immunization rates have improved markedly. The compliance immunization rate for schools in the City of Detroit increased from 56.6% in 1992 to 94.4% in 2003. The following strategic actions have worked to increase immunization rates in Detroit.

- The State of Michigan placed immunization nurses at two primary health centers in the City of Detroit to assess the immunization status of children enrolled in Women, Infants and Children. This effort increases the number of eligible vaccinated children.
- The State of Michigan increased the number of site visits to Vacines for Children provider sites in the City of Detroit from 85 in 2000-2001 to 173 in 2002-2003.