

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 11, 2006

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund will host public forum to share perspectives on access to prescription drugs and Medicare Part D

RALEIGH – The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund’s (HWTF) newly formed Task Force for a Healthier North Carolina will hold the first in a series of public forums to study and make recommendations for improvements in the state’s healthcare policy agenda on Wednesday, December 13 in Raleigh.

The Task Force for a Healthier North Carolina plans to hold meetings across the state through the coming year, to hear testimony from experts and receive feedback from interested groups and individuals in the following areas:

- Assistance that the State can provide to seniors in enrolling and navigating the complexities of the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program.
- Improving access to and enrollment in NC Health Choice, the State’s public insurance for children.
- Exploring ways to improve access to and affordability of group health coverage for small businesses and their employees.

WHO: Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue, HWTF Commissioner to deliver opening remarks. Representatives from pharmacies, drug plans, and pharmaceutical companies to share perspectives on Medicare Part D.

WHAT: NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) Task Force for a Healthier NC public forum

WHEN: Wednesday, December 13, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: The McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh NC 27606

The Task Force for a Healthier North Carolina is commissioned by the Health and Wellness Trust Fund. Research and administrative support is provided by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and The Lewin Group. .

ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF has invested \$127 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$78 million to fund a prescription drug assistance program. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.