



Grassroots Advocacy

WHEREAS, as Medicaid, the nation's health care safety net, is restructured at the state and federal levels and as other changes in health policy related to children take place, it is imperative that the entire children's hospital community be organized to advocate for children and the mission of children's hospitals in the policy making process; and

WHEREAS, the process of organizing local constituencies who are involved with and supportive of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago to take action on behalf of children and the hospital (grassroots organizing) is an appropriate and important role for children's hospitals; and

WHEREAS, children's hospitals are uniquely positioned to be catalysts for grassroots advocacy on behalf of children because children's hospitals currently enjoy broad community support and have strong ties to constituencies with the potential to wield significant influence; and

WHEREAS, children's hospitals' natural constituents include trustees, physicians, nurses, administrative staff, volunteers, parents, employees, vendors, donors and other supporters from the business and wider community; and

WHEREAS, children's hospitals already are expert in mobilizing many of these groups on behalf of their mission -- expertise that can be brought to bear in organizing these constituents to participate in advocacy efforts to influence the public policy-making process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago will make grassroots advocacy a top priority and regularly communicate about public policy issues and provide avenues for participation in advocacy to key grassroots constituencies including trustees, physicians, nurses, administrative staff, volunteers, parents, employees, vendors, donors and other supporters from the business and wider community; develop an infrastructure or system to call these key constituencies to action on a timely basis, either selectively or en masse, when critical issues arise at the local, state or national level; and participate in advocacy by sponsoring events with public officials and by encouraging informed voting through nonpartisan voter education, including candidate forums and voter registration.