



**Strengthening Oklahoma's Safety Net,
One Community At A Time**

Board Bulletin

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CHC Board Requirements

To Govern

The health center board provides leadership and guides the center in doing what it was intended to do. Each board member must understand the mission to appropriately develop and preserve programs and services to fulfill that mission. The governing board provides vision - the direction for the organization. Health centers must meet the Community Health Center (CHC) Program Expectations as outlined in the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Policy Information Notice (PIN) 98-23, which can be obtained by contacting OPCA at the address below. The end result is a board that governs the present and plans for the future in a way that preserves the mission of the center.

To Link With The Community

The board also serves the dual role in linking the center and the community. The first part of its linkage role is to serve as the voice of the community, representing the community and its needs to the center. The center has been established to meet a specific need - to provide primary care services to the community's medically underserved and vulnerable residents. The board's job is to represent the community in assuring that the center maintains the appropriate management and staff necessary to provide the scope of services needed for that particular community. The second part of the board's linkage role requires the board to promote the center and its mission to the community. This becomes especially important as health centers participate in the *Presidential Initiative to Expand Health Centers* and pursue federal funding available through the 330 grants for Expanded Medical Capacity and New Access Points.

It's Required

Although the center is a nonprofit organization, it is still a business - a public/private partnership between the federal government and the community board. It has been incorporated and granted tax-exempt status by the State and Federal Government to fulfill a need. A nonprofit business has rules regarding how it is managed. One of those rules is that it must establish and maintain a board to make sure that the organization continues to operate and do what it was set up to do.

Please take a few moments and complete the brief attachment and return via fax (405-424-1111) or e-mail jgrant@okpca.org. If you have questions or want further information, please contact OPCA as listed below.

_____ Are you familiar with BPHC PIN 98-23 (CHC Program Expectations)?

_____ Did you find this information to be helpful, either for you or new board members as they join your organization?

_____ How long have you been a board member?

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Primary source for OPCA Board Bulletins is the Governing Board Handbook, 2000 developed by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), Bethesda, Maryland. Funded by HRSA/BPHC.