



## **Oregon Coalition of Health Care Purchasers**

### **Oregon Public Employees' Benefit Board Receives the *Employer Excellence in Value Based Purchasing Award***

**November 13, 2007** – The National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH), a non-profit organization of employer-based health coalitions, presented employer and coalition member awards today at its annual conference held in Scottsdale, Ariz. The Oregon Public Employees' Benefit Board was recognized with the *Employer Excellence in Value Based Purchasing Award* sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems.

The Oregon Public Employees' Benefit Board (PEBB), the state's biggest commercially insured health care group, designs, contracts and administers medical, dental, life, accident, disability and long-term care insurance, and flexible spending accounts for state employees and their dependents. The Board also offers healthcare insurance options for retirees not yet eligible for Medicare and individuals in other participating groups. PEBB's total membership is approximately 120,000 individuals.

PEBB, a member of and nominated by the Oregon Coalition of Health Care Purchasers (OCHCP), received the award for their leadership role in community efforts to increase health care quality and engage other purchasers in value based purchasing strategies. "The current health care system is in crisis and we are working toward a new state of health with focus on improving quality and health outcomes – not just providing health care," said Jean Thorne, PEBB administrator. "We are pleased to receive this award recognizing our efforts as a group to impact how health care is delivered to maximize health and utilize dollars wisely."

In the award application, Barbara Prowe, Executive Director of OCHCP stated "In 2005, health plan responses to the PEBB value-based request for proposal were a wake-up call to business in Oregon reminding them of their role in the health care debate; and that, as a group, they have significant power. Consequently, OCHCP is nominating PEBB because their leadership has mobilized purchasers to participate in health-related initiatives with renewed energy and focus."

#### **About the National Business Coalition on Health**

Celebrating 15 years of value based purchasing, NBCH is a national, non-profit, membership organization of nearly 70 employer-based health care coalitions, representing over 7,000 employers and 34 million employees and their dependents across the United States. NBCH and its members are dedicated to value based purchasing of health care services through the collective action of public and private purchasers. For additional information visit [www.nbch.org](http://www.nbch.org).

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