



Association County Commissioners of Georgia  
 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30305  
 (404) 522-5022 FAX (404) 525-2477

**Officers**

Thomas J. McMichael  
 President  
 Houston County  
 Virginia B. Gray  
 1st Vice President  
 Clayton County  
 Jan Tankersley  
 2nd Vice President  
 Bulloch County  
 Lamar Paris  
 3rd Vice President  
 Union County

**Executive Director**  
 Jerry R. Griffin

**Board of Managers**  
 Jerry Shearin  
 Paulding County

Stephen W. Gooch  
 Lumpkin County

Burrell Ellis  
 DeKalb County

Robert Barr  
 Carroll County

G. Melvin Davis  
 Oconee County

William R. Blizzard  
 Baldwin County

John R. Graham  
 Warren County

Clinton Perry  
 Taylor County

D. M. Mullis  
 Laurens County

Charles Lingle  
 Dougherty County

Eugene Dyal  
 Bacon County

John Mciver  
 Liberty County

Richard English  
 Troup County

Jimmy Dixon  
 Burke County

Heidi Davison  
 Athens-Clarke County

Mike Berg  
 Dawson County

James Khoury  
 Peach County

Sam Ojens  
 Cobb County

Helen Stone  
 Chatnam County

Aaron Varner  
 Newton County

Glenda Battle  
 Decatur County

Clarence Brown  
 Bartow County

Billy Croker  
 Polk County

James V. Ham  
 Monroe County

Benjamin Hayward  
 Mitchell County

O. D. Natter  
 Ben Hill County

John Strickland  
 ISMA  
 Clinch County

Walter L. Sanders  
 GSWCF  
 Greene County

H. Jay Walker  
 Pension  
 Houston County

Walter Elliott  
 County Attorney  
 Lowndes County

Paul Bryan  
 County Administrator  
 Jefferson County

Paul Bryan  
 County Administrator  
 Jefferson County

Paul Bryan  
 County Administrator  
 Jefferson County

Pam Gibson  
 County Clerk  
 Ware County

December 21, 2007

ACCG supports 100 percent access to necessary health services and zero disparities in the health status of our citizens. Currently, access to vital healthcare services is on the decline throughout the state, rural and urban areas alike. The current state of the healthcare system cannot be sustained and Medicaid funding shortfalls exacerbate the problem statewide.

We acknowledge that access to healthcare hinges both on the level of service provided, and the geographical location of available services. The economic vitality of our communities is related to the viability of hospitals and doctors. County governments subsidize community resources such as hospitals, health departments and emergency medical services with property tax revenues. Without the partnership of the state and federal government for programs like Medicaid, we cannot sustain or improve healthcare for our citizens.

ACCG supports and is proud to be a member of the ACCESS Healthcare Coalition. This coalition seeks adequate compensation for all providers in the healthcare industry which aims to insure access to healthcare for all Georgians statewide. Specifically, ACCG and the coalition support the Department of Community Health's proposed budget recommendation which would increase Medicaid funding. ACCG and the coalition also support the full reimbursement of costs for emergency medical services.

ACCG asks that Medicaid reforms and their impacts are carefully considered. The Medicaid program provides support for those especially in need of healthcare services like the uninsured and underinsured. We recognize that investment in the health care of this population can be directly related to later healthcare savings and reduction in other social costs.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Griffin  
 Executive Director