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NEWS RELEASE

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KVHC'S HOLLY GARTMAYER NAMED PRESIDENT OF MAINE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

AUGUSTA, ME – November 20, 2007 – Maine Primary Care Association, headquartered in Augusta, announces that Holly Gartmayer is its newly elected President. Gartmayer is Clinical Practice Director at Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC) where she oversees quality improvement and control of medical services provided by the health center.

Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA) is an association of health centers that provide superior comprehensive primary care to the underserved. The organization promotes universal access to healthcare and the elimination of health disparities in Maine.

While Maine is considered a predominantly rural state, MPCA's primary challenge is to build a health care safety net equipped to serve even the most remote areas in the state. MPCA programs promote access to comprehensive primary care with an emphasis on prevention, technical assistance delivery, supporting MPCA members and advocacy.

MPCA members from Portland to Fort Kent include Maine's grant-funded federally qualified health centers, tribal health centers, an island-based community health center and the Maine Migrant Health Program.

A native of Long Island, New York, Gartmayer earned her Masters of Business Administration from Long Island University, graduating *magna cum laude*, and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Molloy College at Rockville Centre, Long Island. Gartmayer came to KVHC in April 2007 from Harrington (Maine) Family Health Center where she was program director. From 1998 to 2002, she served as chief operating officer at Lubec Regional Medical Center. Gartmayer is professionally affiliated with the American College of Health Care Executives, National Association of Community Health Centers, Maine Rural Health Association, Quality Counts and has received several recognition awards for her leadership.

Durward Humphrey, KVHC's executive director, concluded his two-year term as MPCA's president. In handing over the gavel to Gartmayer, Humphrey said, "Holly's work experience encompasses 10 years of nursing in public health, psychiatry, dialysis and geriatric medicine. She has 20 years in health care administration, equally divided between hospital and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) administration. She has successfully integrated the merger of three competing community hospital medical staffs to establish one cohesive staff; spearheaded and developed multiple programs and services; developed integrated quality operations management at hospitals and FQHCs; continuously builds the care management infrastructure across our systems of care necessary to fully integrate expectations among payors of care while demonstrating resulting savings from these efforts; and continues to support the planned growth of the safety net to meet the needs of underserved communities and populations in Maine.

"Holly has been recognized on a national level for innovative strategies implementing the Care Model, a nationally recognized population-based model that relies on knowing which patients have the illness, assuring that they receive evidence-based care, and actively aiding them to participate in their own care. She participates and contributes to a number of *ad hoc* and established committees, including Health Disparities Collaborative, Maine Collaborative Network, Behavioral Health Integration, Women's Behavioral Health System's Initiative, AmeriCorps, Quality Counts,

340-B, mental health integration, diabetes control, emergency preparedness and pandemic flu planning, and others.”

During Humphrey’s two-year tenure as MPCA president, the organization has demonstrated accomplishments in health care management, grants management, implemented electronic medical records at 70% of Maine health centers, assumed a multi-media approach to marketing clinical opportunities among Maine’s primary care safety net, completed Phase I of the health disparities collaborative, and initiated public health emergency preparedness and clinician recruitment and retention programs.

Kevin Lewis, executive director of MPCA, based in Augusta, said, “MPCA reaches a vision of universal access to healthcare and eliminating healthcare disparities by one program at a time, sustaining and spreading progress to additional areas of focus, through each and every access point in the state of Maine. I have known Holly for nearly ten years and have full confidence MPCA will realize continued growth and success with Holly as president. She brings a wealth of experience, leadership and innovation to MPCA and we look forward to working with her to achieve our mission of providing access to affordable, high quality health care for all Maine people, regardless of income levels.”

Accepting her new responsibilities, Gartmayer expressed gratitude for the accomplishments of MPCA’s past leadership, saying, “Collectively, Maine health centers are robust, offering programs and services that reflect the traditional primary and preventive care model. Many reflect innovative and creative models too, such as integrated services like primary and behavioral health as well as providing dental services via the mobile units visiting communities where dental care is inaccessible to many.

“We have reason to celebrate. The Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides the framework within which FQHCs and all health care providers in the U.S. healthcare delivery system are evaluated on performance. Maine health centers contributed to the OMB’s rating of 90% effective, demonstrating the return on investment for providing effective evidence-based care. No other health care provider group came closer. FQHCs are mature in their ability to provide population-based outcomes data and effectively demonstrate how meeting the patients where they are and, by partnering with them, can produce dramatic improvements in health and wellness.

“Other initiatives and characteristics of health centers in Maine include access to 340-B low cost pharmaceuticals; tele-pharmacy – pharmaceuticals dispensed via dispensing units on site at

health centers; outreach and screening for Medicaid eligibility, Medicare Part D; group visits facilitating self-management and peer support; implementation of the care model for management of chronic disease and regular collection of data.

“Maine health centers are actively responsive to a changing landscape. They continue to develop information management networks and care model efficiencies to improve both quality and outcomes to make the best use of resources, with the single goal to improve access to care and services for the people in our communities,” said Gartmayer.

“I am honored to be elected president of Maine Primary Care Association by my peers and am committed to continue in the partnerships and collaborations in place as well as those we will build to facilitate strengthening MPCA and its members. Immediate needs at the state level include preserving our child immunization program. At the federal level, SCHIP must be preserved as well as work force development, including providers and support staff, increasing access to primary and preventive health care, preservation of the 330-B program and Medicare policies, and data management development to meet the increasing demands of the health care industry and the patients we serve.

“Our goal is to be the most effective and responsible for the changing health care needs of the people of Maine,” said Gartmayer.

Gartmayer will continue her role as clinical practice director at Katahdin Valley Health Center during her two-year term as MPCA’s president.

Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA) offers a number of programs and provides an array of services to assist federally qualified health centers in achieving their mission of providing access for people of all ages to affordable, high quality health care, regardless of ability to pay.

Katahdin Valley Health Center (KVHC) is a provider of high quality, cost effective primary health, dental, substance abuse and mental health care to the people in the Greater Katahdin Region. A Federally Qualified Health Center, KVHC is a nonprofit business governed by a board of directors, comprised of area volunteers, funded by a federal grant under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. KVHC employs 65 people at its facilities in Millinocket, Patten, Island Falls and Houlton.

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