



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*

Office of the President

October 3, 2007

Richard F. Daines, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health  
State of New York Department of Health  
Corning Tower  
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Richard:

I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of the progress with the Joint Governance Board that you have established for purposes of joining Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) and the Kaleida Health System (Kaleida) into one unified health care system as identified in the "Berger Commission" report with representation on the "Active Parent" Board of Directors from these entities, the University at Buffalo/SUNY and the community.

As the convening chair, I brought the group together on September 20, 2007. At that meeting, the group voted unanimously, and I accepted, that I will continue to convene the Board on a weekly basis and that I will serve as its sole spokesperson, until such time that a new entity is formed and a permanent Chair of the Board of Directors is identified.

The Board met again September 27, 2007 and then today as well. The Board has asked that I share with you the motions that we have passed unanimously at our meeting this morning. They are:

- Engage the services of Robert Wild of Garfinkle, Wild and Travis, P.C. to serve as independent counsel to the Board.
- Endorse the closure plan of Millard Fillmore Gates, including the relocation of essential services from MFG to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and Buffalo General Hospital that has been put forth in the Kaleida application for \$121 M (recommendation #1).
- Endorse the HEAL-NY application from Kaleida specific to individual and collective funding for the Newco Board's due diligence, including a community-wide strategy for long term care (recommendation #3 for \$1 M and recommendation #5 for \$2.5 M).

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- The Board is committed to striving to achieve the goals of the "Berger Commission" recommendation for the joined entity to develop new infrastructure in which to locate comprehensive heart and vascular services.

In the future, the Board will take up the additional HEAL requests from the ECMC and Kaleida applications.

Furthermore, the ECMC and Kaleida board chairs serving on this Joint Governance Board have accepted the Joint Governance Board's recommendation that the individual entities cease negative advertising, in order to begin sending the message that the entities are working together for the betterment of our community

I'm pleased to report that the Joint Board is working collectively and collaboratively. We remain committed to improving health care delivery in Western New York and look forward to keeping you abreast of our continuing dialogue.

Sincerely,



John B. Simpson  
President

cc: Members of the "Active Parent" Board