

## **HOUSE HEALTH, WELFARE, AND INSTITUTIONS COPN TASKFORCE**

### **October 25, 2006**

The second meeting of the House Health, Welfare, and Institutions COPN Task Force was held in Richmond on October 25, in House Room C, at the General Assembly Building.

#### **Staff Presentation on the Current Status of CON Programs in Other States**

Staff made a presentation on the current status of CON programs in other states. Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia were found to have CON-type programs currently in effect. Fourteen states have repealed CON laws since the 1980s. CON programs were found to vary widely in nature and scope, making comparisons and generalizations difficult. Moreover, the fact that record-keeping systems and other measurement devices were eliminated along with CON programs make analysis of states' post-CON experiences difficult.

#### **Public Comment**

During the public comment period, several interested parties spoke about issue related to the Certificate of Public Need program, and recommendations for revising or improving the program. Major issues included the cost of the COPN program, including addition time spent in organizing and processing applications and legal fees, the impact of for-profit vs. not-for-profit status, ability to provide for indigent care, and variation in application of the COPN process by region across the state and the potential need for a more detailed reporting process. Suggestions and recommendations offered by the several speakers included: regularly reevaluating the COPN process, reconsidering the efficiency and effectiveness of the local review process, and assessing the value of an electronic application process.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the House Health, Welfare and Institutions COPN Task Force will be November 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in House Room C of the General Assembly Building.