**August 2012**

At a dinner meeting on August 28in Columbia 16 people gathered to form the state chapter of PNHP. Called Health Care for All – SC (HCFA-SC) the group elected Dr. David Keely as Chapter President and David Ball, RN as National Liaison. The next meeting, also planned for Columbia is slated for October 17th, and a guest speaker from Health Care for All – North Carolina is planned.

A petition to the National office to form the chapter was signed and subsequently sent to PNHP. A letter of welcome from Dr. Margaret Flowers was read to the assembled.

Our plan is to submit a monthly report in this format outlining activities in our state. We need to establish who should receive it. Our Liaison will draft it, send it to the HCFA-SC President for comment and then forward it to National. Attached is a HCFA-SC dashboard that outlines activity in the state. Suggestions of better metrics are welcome.

INSIDE - A considerable amount of member contact was required to generate the first meeting. A call went out via the National office back in November of last year to form a South Carolina chapter. No more than 2 or 3 responses returned despite a spreadsheet that has 160 current and former members. In the future we may include statewide conference calls.

OUTSIDE – Repeated attempts to engage the Charleston newspaper (Post and Courier) have yet to bear fruit. An interview for an online paper published the day the chapter was formed even though the interview took place weeks earlier. <http://westashley.patch.com/articles/s-c-chapter-of-pnhp-forming>. Similarly, a call to The State newspaper (in Columbia) was not returned until September 4th although we expect a good collaborative relationship here. Letters were sent to US Congressmen John Olver and Barney Frank soliciting support since my family has personal relationships with both members.

AMBASSADORS- In the future we plan to identify committed Steering Committee members to lead activities in the four regions of the state – Upstate, Midlands, Pee Dee, and Low Country. Our plan is to identify these individuals at the October 17th meeting.