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Quality Conference Featuring Vermont's Approach to Health Care Reform

Burlington, VT – The Vermont Council for Quality will expand its Fall Quality Conference to include detailed analyses of state and federal health care reform initiatives. The two-day session, combining a full-day conference on health care reform with VCQ's traditional day-long session on organizational quality improvement initiatives, will be held on December 7 & 8 at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in Burlington.

"There are dramatic changes under way in Vermont's health care system and state and federal reform discussions suggest that more changes will be coming soon," said Laurie Emerson of the Vermont Council for Quality.

"We believe that VCQ can play an important role in helping organizations and individuals understand these changes by facilitating presentations by the individuals who are leading the reform effort."

The Health Care Reform Conference will be held on December 7th, and is designed to provide information on health care improvement projects already under way in Vermont – such as the Blueprint For Health and the Vermont Information Technology Leaders initiatives – as well as policy discussions at the national level.

Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., the state's sole representative to the U.S. House of Representatives has been invited for a keynote presentation on "Reflections on National Health Care Reform". Rep. Welch has been a strong proponent of substantial federal health care reform.

Vermont is considered a national leader in state-led health care reform initiatives, and the conference also will feature presentations by leaders of the Blueprint, VITL, the Vermont Health Care Reform Commission, the Vermont Legislature, and the Office of Vermont Health Access.

George Hayes, Chief Executive Officer of one of the hospitals within the Baldrige-award winning Poudre Valley Health System, will be delivering a keynote presentation on both days at the Quality Conference, discussing how his organization has used the Baldrige principles for quality improvement to improve the health care delivered to its patients.

Reservations are required to attend the conference. For further information, please call Vermont Council for Quality at 802-655-1910 or visit our website at www.VermontQuality.org.

Founded in 1996, the Vermont Council for Quality is a non-profit corporation that helps Vermont organizations improve performance and competitiveness. VCQ is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program and is one of 40 state and local award programs in the United States. VCQ provides recognition and awards, continuous improvement education and training, organizational self-assessments, networking opportunities, serves as a resource referral for information, knowledge, and sharing of best practices within and between Vermont organizations.

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