



INTEGRATIVE HEALTH POLICY CONSORTIUM

IHPC Partners for Health

- Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine
- American Association of Naturopathic Physicians
- American Holistic Nurses Association
- American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Association
- American Nutrition Association
- Bastyr University, Center for Health Policy & Leadership
- Institute for Functional Medicine
- Institute for Natural Medicine
- Integrative Medicine for the Underserved
- International Chiropractors Association
- Life University
- National Center for Homeopathy
- National Foundation for Integrative Medicine
- Northwestern Health Sciences University, Center for Healthcare Innovation & Policy
- Southern California University of Health Sciences
- Upledger Institute

IHPC At-Large Members

- Bill Reddy, LAc, DiplAc
- Bob Twillman, PhD
- Kasra Pournadeali, ND, FACN
- Len Wisneski, MD, FACP

IHPC Strategic Advisor

- Margaret Chesney, PhD

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy -

On behalf of the Integrative Health Policy Consortium (IHPC), we extend our heartfelt congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Your steadfast commitment to improving the health and well-being of the American people inspires our members and aligns deeply with our shared mission to combat chronic disease and reduce reliance on pharmaceutical interventions.

IHPC is a national nonprofit 501(c)(4) consortium comprised of 22 organizations and institutions (our “Partners for Health”) representing more than 650,000 state-licensed and nationally certified healthcare professionals. These providers encompass integrative medicine, holistic nursing, chiropractic, acupuncture, naturopathic medicine, certified professional midwifery, massage therapy, energy psychology, nutrition and homeopathy. Our mission is to remove barriers to health and foster health creation for individuals and communities. We tirelessly advocate to for health promotion and disease prevention by advancing evidence-based strategies to address the root causes of chronic disease. Additionally, we are committed to promoting value-based care models.

In recent years, the consortium has worked closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and promote recommendations issued by the non-partisan [Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force Report of 2019](#). This report, spearheaded by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), recognized pain as a critical national health challenge and its direct impact on the opioid crisis. It also highlighted the evidence of health disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations in the prevalence and treatment of pain-related conditions, which stem from systemic factors within our current healthcare framework. We look forward to working with HHS, including CMS, to renew efforts toward implementing the report’s recommendations.

In addition, IHPC is eager to collaborate with CMS to address integrative/whole health priorities, which we [communicated](#) to the Trump-Vance HHS agency review team. These include expanding the delivery and Medicare and Medicaid coverage of integrative health services. A key mechanism to achieve this would be expanding the

coverage of Section 2706 of the Public Health Service Act to encompass all public (federal) health programs. Enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act, this provision is pivotal in ensuring equitable access to integrative health services.

Once again, congratulations on your confirmation. IHPC looks forward to collaborating with HHS to design and implement policies that build a healthier and more resilient nation. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your key staff in the spring of 2025 to discuss these initiatives further.

Sincerely,

Margaret Erickson, PhD, RN, CNS, APRN, APHN-BC, SGAHN
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