

# **“The Picture of Health in California” Torrance OneCareNow Event Torrance Memorial Hospital Health Care Center Thursday, July 12, 2007**

Co-chairs Dee Hardison and Barbara Barker of the League of Women Voters Torrance joined with Sheila Hoff of Health Care for All South Bay/Long Beach and 15 other community leaders from LWV, HCA, CSEA and local Democratic Clubs to create a full day event. It began with a lively forum attended by approximately 75 people, including doctors, medical students, and community members.

Dr. Thomas LaGrelus spoke against single payer universal health care and presented a view of pay-as-you-go family health services



augmented by catastrophic insurance coverage. Dr. Sherif Emil spoke for universal health coverage, particularly single payer, and championed Senator Sheila Kuehl’s SB840. Emily Gold, Deputy for the Senator, provided the particulars of how the proposed legislation would impact the health industry.

Torrance CitiCable filmed the forum for replay on its public access station daily for a two-week run, and also agreed to share it with the adjacent communities served by cable companies. The City of Long Beach also plans to use portions of the tape as part of the video of their event which will be played on their local cable for an entire month.

A small health information fair followed the forum with local groups sharing their offerings. The Torrance Farmers’ Markets was a popular booth with its fresh plums and pluots, a hybrid of plum and apricot.

Torrance Memorial Medical Center graciously provided blood pressure and body fat screening, as well as refreshments. The Wellness Community, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Bartlett Senior Citizen Center and the Multiple Sclerosis Society Los Angeles Chapter shared information on their services. There were also tables for LWV, HCA and the OneCareNow Campaign.



A rally was held later in the day at the city’s busiest intersection – Torrance and Hawthorne Boulevards. Approximately 50 people arrived at 5 p.m. and carried signs and balloons while chanting or singing to the guitar music of John Flick (HCA/SB/LB), who has created a universal health care lyric to the tune of *Button Up Your Overcoat*. Some came as a response to the forum they had attended earlier in the day. Others were from the LWV Torrance, Beach Cities and Palos Verdes, HCA/South Bay/Long Beach, AFSCME, CSEA, Gray Panthers Long Beach, and the Democratic Clubs of Torrance and San Pedro. Many drivers responded with horn honking and waving.

In all, it was a very successful day, thanks to all the volunteers.



Photos by Toni Lubofsky and Barbara Barker

**Thanks to our volunteers**

- Linda Brown
- Jim Dawson
- John Flick
- Terry Furey
- Sheila Hoff
- Briana Krank
- Pat Kromka
- Venora Lee
- Toni Lubofsky
- Martha Madison
- Tom Newman
- Anna San Ramon
- Dorothy Stewart
- Andrea Wagner
- Jacque Whited
- and all the people who came to the rally

