



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Columbia Valley Community Health Board Chair Appointed to Advisory Committee** *Rich Watson invited to serve on Congressman Reichert's Health Care Advisory Board*

*Wednesday, March 13, 2013: Wenatchee, WA:* Rich Watson, Chairman of the Board of Directors of [Columbia Valley Community Health](http://www.cvch.org), has been invited to serve on a state-wide **Health Care Advisory Committee**, hosted by U.S. Representative Dave Reichert of the Eighth District.

Established when Congressman Reichert first came to Congress in 2005, the Health Care Advisory Committee examines recent health care legislative work and discusses related issues with recognized leaders from the health care field. In addition to providing Rep. Reichert with first-hand information on the important health care issues facing in his district, this forum is a way to facilitate conversation between health care leaders to learn what is working and what is not.

Rich has served as Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH) Board Chairman since April of 2011, and has been a member of the Board of Directors since November of 2006. An experienced leader and long time resident of North Central Washington, Rich has worked hard to make affordable, high-quality healthcare accessible to all rural Washingtonians. As part of the Health Care Advisory Committee, Rich will work to ensure that the needs of the residents of Chelan and Douglas Counties are represented in Olympia during this time of change.

“Healthcare is in a huge transitional state right now,” Watson says, “and while the mission and vision of community health centers continues to be an opportunity to serve the underserved, the reality of doing so has changed dramatically. It’s a much more difficult environment today as the regulations, rules and funding sources have all changed. Therefore, it’s critical to build relationships and establish strong communications with lawmakers and legislators to be as prepared as possible for the challenges that lie ahead.”

Columbia Valley Community Health serves over a fourth of the population of Chelan and Douglas counties (over 24,000 people a year), a number Watson says represents the vast majority of the medical, dental and behavioral health needs of the uninsured, under-insured and Medicare/Medicaid patients in this area.

“The staff and leadership of CVCH are intimately involved in the issues facing the health care system and in re-inventing health care delivery models. That includes looking closely at how health care costs can be contained and reduced. The legislative decisions being made right now will directly affect our future, the future of healthcare, and ultimately the quality of life of our patients.”

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*CVCH Press Release: CVCH Board Chair Appointed to Health Care Advisory Committee*

Independent of the Health Care Advisory Committee, Rich will be attending the [National Association of Community Health Centers](#)' (NACHC) 2013 [Policy & Issues Forum](#) in Washington D.C. on March 19 -23. This educational conference will focus on the national fiscal agenda, the federal spending debate, and the impact that health reform will have on Community Health Centers.

**About Columbia Valley Community Health**

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves well over 20,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

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