



**WYE
RIVER
GROUP ON
HEALTHCARE**

Wye River Group on Healthcare (WRGH) is not-for-profit 501C3 forum for collaboration and open exchange of ideas to promote constructive healthcare system change. WRGH is a dynamic process that works to stay ahead of the emerging trends in healthcare finance and delivery. The organization identifies and advances ideas with broad application to healthcare policy and the market place, through multiple educational outlets.

For five years this informal policy group, representing every major sector in healthcare, has served as a sounding board and an ad hoc advisory panel to bipartisan state and Congressional leadership, vetting healthcare financing proposals, quality initiatives and infrastructure concepts. The group has been very effective in advocating for change through its individual members. Our strength lies in the cross-section of stakeholders committed to advancing common goals, as well as in the inclusive process employed in reaching agreement on issues.

The philosophical underpinning of WRGH is a desire to develop and articulate a market-driven vision for healthcare in America, while promoting public-private collaboration. Governments--local, state and federal--are critical in this framework. Accountability, standard setting and a strong safety net is needed in a true system of healthcare. We believe that the best way to achieve these objectives is through public-private collaboration. There are many community-based partnerships between healthcare stakeholders throughout America that are successfully working to address what ails our healthcare system.

Over its history, WRGH has enjoyed broad participation and sponsorship from many individuals and organizations. This approach preserves our integrity and helps to avoid adverse speculation around our purpose. In addition to national health policy activity at the Aspen Institute Wye River Conference Center, the group has expanded its reach through community-based initiatives and other projects.

WRGH has completed Phase I of the national initiative "Communities Shaping a Vision for America's 21st Century Health & Healthcare." This 10 community "listening" tour, sponsored by a cross-section of national trade and professional associations, with bipartisan support and participation, was designed to elicit and capture the key attributes of contemporary American healthcare values. The goal is to develop a healthcare agenda that transcends politics and sector competition by starting with community discussions of healthcare values that should shape our healthcare system.

Other WRGH projects include:

- Development of an Employers' Guide to Patient-Directed Healthcare
- Working with the American Cancer Society to promote community leadership in cancer prevention and early detection
- Development of an Employers' Guide to Pharmaceutical Benefits
- Working with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on the implications of an aging America
- Working with HRSA and Community Health Centers from across the country on their Cancer Collaborative