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## **Clinic Director to Preside Over Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers**

**August 15, 2011** - Dr. Tom Bent, Medical Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Laguna Beach Community Clinic, has been elected to the post of President of the Board of Directors of the Coalition of Orange County Community Health Centers.

Commenting on Bent's election, Ms. Isabel Becerra, Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition, said "As our new Chairman, Dr. Tom Bent's strategic, enthusiastic, and most importantly passionate leadership will guide the organization in this unprecedented opportunity to implement health care for the benefit of all families served by our member health centers."



The Coalition was established in 1974 as a support organization for the many independent clinics of Orange County.

As Coalition President, Dr. Bent states, "I hope to continue to advocate for people who can't get health care, to encourage independent clinics to develop sources of non-governmental funding, and to create greater recognition of how these independent clinics strengthening our medical safety net in a period of great challenges to our health care system."

Dr. Bent is known throughout Orange County for his long-standing commitment to caring for the medically underserved. He has been involved with the Laguna Beach Clinic since 1982 and has served as full-time Director of the Clinic since 2002. A Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at UC Irvine, he is widely recognized as a leader in community health circles.

According to Dr. Orson Dee, member of the LBCC Board of Directors and volunteer cardiologist at LBCC, "Dr. Bent has run both a compassionate and superbly managed operation. We are fortunate to have him at the helm of our Clinic."

Dr. Bent is a resident of Laguna Beach where both he and his wife Carolyn have been involved with the Clinic and the community for over 30 years..

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