



Yakima Health Care Leader Tapped for Leadership Post at National Association

Bethesda, MD_ Anita Monoian, President and CEO of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, in Washington state, has been elected Board Chair-Elect of the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. (NACHC) at the 38th Annual Convention and Community Health Institute (CHI) in Dallas, TX. Monoian was tapped for the position by thousands of health center professionals from coast to coast who assembled at the annual gathering.

"I am so excited to have the support of my colleagues, and to be representing our nation's health care safety net during these important times," said Monoian, following her election. "Our health centers are mission-driven, patient-focused, and consumer-led, and have been recognized across political divides for our quality and cost-effective approaches to care. There are over 1,100 centers across the country sharing this mission of improving access to care. I will continue to work hard to advance the mission through my position with NACHC. It will be an honor."

Leading up to her election at NACHC, Monoian previously served as Vice-Speaker of the House on NACHC's Executive Board. She also served on a number NACHC committees that directly impact state and federal policy-making. She was a recipient of the *2001 John E. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Leadership*. She has served as Officer and President of the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association, as well as Officer of the Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers.

Monoian's election came as the Department of Health and Human Services announced \$61 million in new health center grants to help half a million Americans. The announcement, which came during NACHC's convention in Dallas, moves the nation one step closer to fulfilling the President's Health Center Initiative to increase access to primary health care services in 1,200 communities. Community Health Centers currently serve 16 million patients living in rural and urban communities around America and in the U.S. territories. No one is turned away for health care, regardless of their ability to pay.

Established in 1971, NACHC is a non-profit organization whose mission is (1) to represent the interests of federally supported and other federally qualified health centers and (2) to serve as an information source concerning issues of health care for poor and medically underserved populations in the United States.