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Puget Sound Health Alliance Hires Seasoned Leader in Health Care and Business Community as New Executive Director

SEATTLE, May 1, 2008 – The Puget Sound Health Alliance today announced the selection of Mary O. McWilliams, an executive with over 20 years experience in health care leadership in the Pacific Northwest, as the Alliance’s new Executive Director.

As Executive Director, Ms. McWilliams will build on the outstanding accomplishments of the Alliance’s leadership team and Board of Directors. She will have responsibility for the operational management of the Alliance in addition to representing the Alliance to the public, participating companies, the industry, and public policy leaders.

“Mary McWilliams has strong executive leadership experience in health care, business, and is a founding member of the Alliance Board,” said David Fleming, M.D., Chair of the Alliance Board of Directors and Director and Health Officer for Public Health for Seattle and King County. “With her practical knowledge and style, she will be able to hit the ground running to continue the Alliance’s local success and growing national reputation for shining the light on regional health care to encourage improvement in quality and affordability.”

In joining the Alliance, Mary McWilliams will build on a strong foundation of involvement with Alliance governance and activities. “As a founding board member, I have been very involved in the creation, development and growth of the Alliance since its inception,” said Mary McWilliams, “It is an exciting opportunity to continue my calling in health care by working with the tremendous board and highly regarded staff to lead this coalition to the next level.”

Mary McWilliams is currently President of Regence BlueShield in Washington, a leading health plan in Washington state. “While it is a great coup for the citizens of Washington

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state, it is sad for all of us at Regence,” said Mark Ganz, President and CEO of the Regence Group. “Mary’s strong leadership and deep knowledge of health care have created an impressive record of growth in a highly competitive market. The Alliance has been a critical partner for Regence in our efforts to transform the health care system, and we are pleased that we will continue to have an opportunity to work with her in her new role.”

Prior to joining Regence in 1997, Mary held positions as the Northwest Regional Vice President for PacifiCare Health Systems, President and CEO of PacifiCare of Washington, and the founding Chief Executive Officer for the Sisters of Providence Health Plans in Oregon. Her health care experience also includes leadership roles in planning at Providence Medical Center in Oregon and in consulting for the American Health Management and Consulting Corporation.

As a business community leader, Ms. McWilliams is the past Board Chair for the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and member of their Community Development Roundtable. She participates in Seattle Rotary and is on the boards of Safe Crossings (grieving support for children) and PONCHO (Patrons of Northwest Civic, Cultural and Charitable Organizations). She brings to the Alliance an exemplary combination of experience in non-profit and public company governance, and effective approaches to finance, strategic planning, marketing, and motivating and managing high-performing leadership teams.

Ms. McWilliams starts at the Alliance on June 23. She replaces Margaret Stanley, executive director since 2005, who last year announced her plan to retire in mid-2008.

The Puget Sound Health Alliance (www.pugetsoundhealthalliance.org) is a non-profit made up of those who provide, pay for and use health care, working to improve quality of care at a price more people can afford. More than 50 individuals and 165 organizations have joined the Alliance, including The Boeing Company, Starbucks, Puget Sound Energy, REI, Washington Mutual, WA State Health Care Authority, King County and many other employers, physician groups, hospitals, consumer organizations, unions, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, associations and others. A cornerstone of the Alliance work is the *Community Checkup*, a regional report to the public comparing the performance of clinics and hospitals for basic measures of quality care in the Puget Sound area (www.wacomunitycheckup.org).

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