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Children's Dental Health Project Founder and Chair Appointed to New Federal MACPAC

January 6, 2010 (WASHINGTON, DC)-- The Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) is pleased to announce that the organization's Founder and Chair, Dr. Burton Edelstein, has been appointed to a two-year term on the new Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC). The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 established MACPAC to review Medicaid and CHIP access and payment policies and to advise Congress on issues affecting Medicaid and CHIP. Acting Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Gene L. Dodarn made public Dr. Edelstein's appointment on December 23, 2009.

"I am tremendously honored to be asked to serve on the Commission," Edelstein said. "I look forward to working with the distinguished members of this panel to fulfill the important mission of MACPAC in ensuring that Medicaid and CHIP implementation succeeds at the highest level."

Dr. Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH, is a pediatric dentist and Professor of Clinical Dentistry at the College of Dental Medicine and Clinical Health Policy and Management at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. As Founder and Chair of the Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP), he has guided the organization in its steadily increasing policy role in improving the oral health of children and individuals through their life span. With the vision of achieving equity in children's oral health CDHP designs and advances research-driven policies and innovative solutions by engaging a broad base of partners committed to children and oral health. Those partnerships include CDHP's role as the lead partner of the National Oral Health Policy Center (supported by the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau) and as a technical advisor to states through a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Oral Health.

Dr. Edelstein's extensive background includes private pediatric dental practice in Connecticut and 21 years of teaching experience in pediatric dentistry and oral health policy at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He served as a 1996-97 Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow in the office of U.S. Senate minority leader Tom Daschle with primary responsibility for SCHIP. Dr. Edelstein worked with the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services on its oral health initiatives from 1998 to 2001, chaired the U.S. Surgeon General's Workshop on Children and Oral Health, and authored the child section of Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General. He received his degree in dentistry from University at Buffalo, The State University of New York School of Dentistry and his Master in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

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The Children's Dental Health Project is a national non-profit organization with the vision of achieving equity in children's oral health. For additional information, please visit www.cdhp.org.