

Remarks by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
August 6, 2009
Stout Street Clinic, 2100 Broadway, Denver, Colorado
Transcription pertaining to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Introductory remarks regarding colleagues

John Parvensky to listen to you talk is to hear the blend of idealism about caring about people, about the compassion and the justice that we want for all people in our country, wedded to a strategic thinking about how to get the job done. As we toured this facility, the Stout Street Clinic, and I'm so glad that so many of you are now more aware of what goes on here because of the health care debate and because of our pride that we take in the funds that were in the recovery package that came to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. We learned so much more about what is happening here. We see a place of dedicated professionals, working with volunteers, to give the respect that the clients who come here deserve. We see a facility that again, respects the clients who come here. We see a holistic approach where you can't talk about ending homelessness or addressing it, unless you address the health needs and mental health needs of the clients who come here. We see the gift of sight - the gift of vision - in the ophthalmology section. Here the 100,000 prescriptions, something like that, each year, out of the pharmacy that is here. We didn't visit the mental health section; we did hear about it, but out of respect for the clients' privacy, we just heard about it, but it is quite remarkable.

This facility and this coalition is a perfect model for the country. It's of the right size so it can move quickly, as you said, and have the agility to get things done with fresh new thinking, in an entrepreneurial way, about how to meet the needs of the homeless and those who need access to health care, again, as you said, in the community health center model, but also of such significance that it is of national significance. There's a reason why this money came to this initiative, it's because it's of the national significance, a model to the nation on how to get the job done, springing from an idealism that John Parvensky just exudes and it's a joy to be in his presence and really quite remarkable to hear the record of accomplishment that is being done here, being achieved here.

Remarks regarding health care reform

I'm very pleased to hear what John has said; how this money would make a difference whether it's health IT systems to expand the electronic medical records here, that's important for integrating the services that are here, whether it's pharmaceutical and mental health services and the rest; allow clinics to meet increased needs and those needs because of the recession and help 1,000 families find housing solutions and create jobs as it does so.

So thank you, John, for what you do, for your tremendous leadership, for the example you are to the country, to all who work with you here at the Stout Street Clinic, but also in the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; and also for your hospitality here today, so that we could share our hopes and our enthusiasm for the future, springing from what we

have done and what we will do when we pass affordable, quality, accessible health care for all Americans under the leadership of President Barack Obama. Thank you.