

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the
American Optometric Association
and the
National Association of Community Health Centers

The mission of the American Optometric Association (AOA) is to ensure the public's visual welfare by providing primary eye care and preventive health services, and the mission of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) is to support the provision of high quality, comprehensive healthcare for all medically underserved populations. Both associations play important roles in preventing disease, promoting health and advocating health policy.

This Memorandum of Understanding sets forth the terms and understanding between the AOA and NACHC for strengthening the level of cooperation between the two parties. The following consensus is hereby established:

§ AOA and NACHC will develop a partnership for the development and implementation of strategies around issues of common interest and concern, exchange ideas, and share best practices in the delivery of high quality, cost-effective health care.

§ AOA and NACHC will promote and facilitate the development and implementation of programs and/or special initiatives to ensure that the medically underserved and uninsured have access to comprehensive vision care.

§ AOA will urge their State Optometric Associations to work with State Primary Care Associations to incorporate vision care services into their state's community-based health centers.

§ AOA and NACHC will urge their respective membership to build coalitions in order to increase the level of awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the importance of eye and vision health to the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of the underserved populations in the community.

§ AOA and NACHC will exchange relevant publications, bulletins, and other information on a regular basis for the cross-education of their members and constituencies, and the interdisciplinary stimulation of novel ideas and approaches to preventing disease and promoting health.

§ AOA and NACHC will advocate mutually agreed upon public health policy that helps assure viability of the health center programs.

This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute a fiscal arrangement for the obligation of funds by either party. Any joint endeavors involving reimbursement or transfer of funds between the parties to this agreement will be handled in accordance with prescribed financial procedures of both parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective upon the signature of the authorized officials of the respective parties. It will remain in effect until terminated by mutual agreement. The Memorandum will be reviewed periodically, but not less than annually, and it may be amended as agreed to by both parties in writing.



Tom Van Coverden
President and CEO
National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.
Date: June 1, 2004



Victor Connors, OD
President
American Optometric Association
Date: June 9, 2004