

[Summary]

## **The Role of NECON in the National Healthcare Reform Dialogue**

NECON Chair Bert Yaffe closed the conference with these remarks:

“Today, with this conference entitled *Prevention—The Ultimate Cost Containment Strategy And A Key To Affordable Universal Healthcare in America*, NECON joins the national healthcare reform dialogue. There is consensus: there will be changes in American health policies. Whether we are discussing the issues of affordable universal health insurance or the enduring need for a universal health program, there is agreement—*the nation is experiencing an ever-worsening crisis of chronic diseases*. It is a crisis that is diminishing our quality of life, escalating the costs of disease care, and distancing the prospects for health care reform, however defined.

The role of NECON in this political climate is twofold: 1) define *prevention*, and 2) nurture a *Prevention Movement* in New England. Collectively, the Legislators’ Caucuses, the Regional Health Trends Reports, the State Health Action Forums and our regionwide conferences will sustain the institutional memory necessary for a prevention paradigm in the region and will offer a model for the nation.

The vision endures, I look forward to realizing it with you.”