



## NEWS RELEASE

Media Inquiries

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### **New health CO-OP receives insurance license**

**(DES MOINES, Iowa) March 28, 2013** — [CoOpportunity Health](#), Iowa and Nebraska’s new nonprofit Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP), received a Certificate of Authority to provide health insurance by the Iowa Insurance Division.

“We’re pleased to have completed the state insurance licensing process in Iowa. This is an important accomplishment in our business plan, and keeps us on track toward introducing our innovative health insurance solutions to Iowa and Nebraska individuals and businesses later this year,” said David Lyons, CoOpportunity Health CEO.

CoOpportunity Health became one of the first nonprofit CO-OPs to be approved by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) in February 2012. To date, [24 CO-OPs](#) have been approved in 24 states.

CoOpportunity Health will provide a broad choice of health insurance plans for individuals and families, small businesses, and large employers. The company will begin marketing activities on Oct. 1, 2013, to coincide with the availability of the new Health Insurance Marketplace (online Exchange) in Iowa and Nebraska. In addition to enrolling in CoOpportunity Health plans on the Marketplace, the company’s products will be available to purchase outside the Marketplace through a selective network of brokers and agents, as well as on its own website.

CoOpportunity Health also expanded its initial board of directors, comprised of founders David Lyons, Stephen Ringlee, and Cliff Gold, to include [Harris A. Frankel, M.D.](#), a specialist and medical director at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), and [Nancy Thompson](#), executive director of the [Health Center Association of Nebraska](#) (HCAN). A majority of the board of directors must be comprised of members within two years after it begins marketing products later this year.



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Frankel is a native of Omaha, Neb., and a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. After nearly 21 years in private practice, Frankel joined the Department of Neurological Sciences at UNMC where he is an active staff member and serves as medical director for the UNMC-Physicians Clinical Neurosciences Center. Frankel currently serves as president of the [Nebraska Health Information Initiative \(NeHII\)](#), a public-private collaborative leading the effort to create a secure, online, Web-based health information exchange (HIE) to serve the state of Nebraska. Frankel is board certified in the specialty of neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Thompson joined the newly formed Health Center Association of Nebraska two years ago as its first executive director. HCAN provides administrative, regulatory and coordination support to the state's six federally-qualified health centers. Prior to joining HCAN, Thompson was CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands, and a former Nebraska state senator who served on the Health and Human Services Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

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**About CoOpportunity Health ([coOpportunityhealth.com](http://coOpportunityhealth.com))** — CoOpportunity Health is the only multistate health insurance CO-OP in the U.S. CoOpportunity Health began operations in February 2012 following approval by the federal government. The company is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, and will operate in both Iowa and Nebraska. CoOpportunity Health has strategic business alliances with HealthPartners Administrators, Inc., which provides health plan administrative services, and Midlands Choice, a multistate Preferred Provider (PPO) network headquartered in Omaha.

Editor's Notes: A low-resolution CoOpportunity Health logo is available for your use: <http://bit.ly/CoOpportunityHealthLogoJPG> or <http://bit.ly/CoOpportunityHealthLogoPNG>. Also available is a copy of the [Iowa license](#); board member photos available upon request.