

“Confronting Obesity: What Can Make A Difference?”



Lois Quam
Chief Executive Officer



10:00 – 11:15 a.m., February 24, 2004
Johnson Great Room – McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street S.E.
University of Minnesota East Bank

Current studies indicate that approximately 31% of Americans are obese. This number is expected to increase to 40%, or 68 million Americans, by 2010. The health problems associated with obesity—including diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and arthritis—are significant and place an enormous strain on the nation’s health care delivery system. Lois Quam will review initiatives that are underway at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to confront this challenging health problem.

Background: Lois Quam is the CEO of Oventions, a \$6.2 billion UnitedHealth Group company and the largest U.S. health and well-being company dedicated to serving the 6.2 million individuals over the age of 50. As CEO of Oventions, Ms. Quam has excelled at creating innovative partnerships with the public and non-profit sectors working to improve services to Medicare beneficiaries. She oversees Evercare, an organization that was selected in 2002 as the British National Health Service’s first private sector partner for health care administration services covering the 2 million frail elderly individuals. Ms. Quam chaired the Minnesota Health Care Access Commission, and advised the White House and state leaders on health care reform. She has served on the Board of Editors for the *British Medical Journal* and published in peer reviewed journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*. She is on the Board of Trustees of Macalester College and the General George C. Marshall Foundation. In 2003, she was selected by *Fortune* as one of the “50 Most Powerful Women in American Business.” A native of rural southwestern Minnesota, Ms. Quam earned a master’s degree in philosophy, politics, and economics at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. She graduated magna cum laude from Macalester College where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She is the recipient of the college’s Distinguished Alumni Award. Ms. Quam resides in St. Paul with her husband, State Representative Matt Entenza, and their three sons. She serves as a volunteer in the St. Paul Public Schools.

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