

SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES INC  
Form 10-Q  
July 26, 2006

United States  
Securities And Exchange Commission

Washington, DC 20549

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FORM 10-Q

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(Mark One)

☒ Quarterly Report Pursuant To Section 13 Or 15(d) Of The Securities Exchange Act Of 1934  
For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2006

or

☐ Transition Report Pursuant To Section 13 Or 15(d) Of The Securities Exchange Act Of 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File Number: 1-8865

SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Nevada

88-0200415

(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation or Organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2724 North Tenaya Way, Las Vegas, NV

89128

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

**Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (702) 242-7000**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of "accelerated filer" and "large accelerated filer" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (check one).

Large accelerated filer ☒

Accelerated filer ☐

Non-accelerated filer ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Common Stock as of July 25, 2006 was 56,203,000.

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**Sierra Health Services, Inc.  
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q  
For the period ended June 30, 2006**

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**Part I. Financial Information**

Item 1. Financial Statements

Sierra Health Services, Inc. And Subsidiaries  
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets  
*(In thousands, except per share data)*  
*(Unaudited)*

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December 31,  
2005

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Assets

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents

\$96,855

\$

88,059

Investments

284,945 281,250

Accounts receivable (less allowance for doubtful accounts: 2006 - \$5,302; 2005 - \$5,792)

13,940 14,501

Current portion of deferred tax asset

27,576 23,949

Prepaid expenses and other current assets

64,481 30,596

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Total current assets

487,797 438,355

Property and equipment, net

71,149 71,357

Restricted cash and investments

18,080 18,252

Goodwill (less accumulated amortization: 2006 and 2005 - \$6,972)

14,782 14,782

Deferred tax asset (less current portion)

13,978 13,266 Note receivable (less valuation allowance: 2006 and 2005 - \$15,000)47,000 47,000

Other assets

101,319 65,834

Total assets

\$754,105

\$

668,846

Liabilities and stockholders' equity

Current liabilities:

Accrued and other current liabilities

\$81,496

\$

58,238

Trade accounts payable

1,873 2,347

Accrued payroll and taxes

26,562 21,469

Medical claims payable

147,964 135,867

Unearned premium revenue

114,157 49,067

Current portion of long-term debt

110 106

Total current liabilities

372,162 267,094

Long-term debt (less current portion)

71,750 52,307

Other liabilities

65,120 65,193

Total liabilities

509,032 384,594

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Commitments and contingencies

Stockholders' equity:

Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, 1,000 shares authorized; none issued or outstanding

Common stock, \$.005 par value, 120,000 shares authorized; 2006 - 69,747; 2005 - 69,136 shares issued

349 346

Treasury stock: 2006 - 13,681; 2005 - 11,006 common stock shares

(489,366) (377,190)

Additional paid-in capital

420,768 400,287

Accumulated other comprehensive loss

(3,875) (1,750)

Retained earnings

317,197 262,559

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Total stockholders' equity

245,073 284,252

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Total liabilities and stockholders' equity

\$754,105

\$

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

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**Sierra Health Services, Inc. And Subsidiaries**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements Of Income**  
*(In thousands, except per share data)*  
*(Unaudited)*

Three Months Ended  
June 30,

Six Months Ended  
June 30,

2006

2005

2006

2005

Operating revenues:

Medical premiums

\$400,664 \$320,395 \$815,108 \$631,750

Military contract revenues

9,952 16,311

Professional fees

12,882 10,116 25,797 19,969

Investment and other revenues

10,892 7,564 21,781 15,856

Total

424,438	348,027	862,686	683,886
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Operating expenses:

Medical expenses

321,545	251,233	658,064	496,188
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Military contract expenses

(1,734)	138	2,373	
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General and administrative expenses

50,422	42,158	101,623	83,631
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Total

371,967	291,657	759,825	582,192
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Operating Income

52,471 56,370 102,861 101,694

Interest expense

(1,002) (4,349) (1,778) (5,980)

Other income (expense), net

9302 (24

)

401

Income before income taxes

51,478 52,323 101,059 96,115

Provision for income taxes

(17,944) (18,487) (34,854) (32,874)

Net income

\$33,534 \$33,836 \$66,205 \$63,241

Net income per common share

\$0.60 \$0.62 \$1.16 \$1.18

Net Income per common share assuming dilution

\$0.54 \$0.51 \$1.05 \$0.94

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements



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Balance, June 30, 2006	(3,875 317,197
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All applicable shares, excluding treasury shares, reflect the retroactive effects of the two-for-one common stock split in the form of a stock dividend that was effective December 30, 2005. See Note 1 in the Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for more information.

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

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**Sierra Health Services, Inc. And Subsidiaries**  
**Condensed Consolidated Statements Of**

Cash Flows  
*(In thousands)*  
*(Unaudited)*

Six Months Ended  
June 30,

2006
2005

Cash flows from operating activities:

Net income

\$66,205   \$ 63,241

Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

Depreciation

8,239   7,496

Stock-based compensation expense

3,042   3,169

Excess tax benefits from share-based payment arrangements

(10,260)

Provision for doubtful accounts

1,202   1,286

Loss on property and equipment dispositions

149   325

Change in operating assets and liabilities:

Military accounts receivable

21 21,176

Deferred tax asset

7,043 11,658

Other current assets

(34,506) 7,558

Other assets

(3,500 ) (2,730)

Accrued payroll and taxes

5,093 (286)

Medical claims payable

12,097 2,184

Military health care payable

(17,061)

Other current liabilities

20,255 (18,441 )

Unearned premium revenue

65,090 (34,562)

Other liabilities

(73 ) (3,423

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Net cash provided by operating activities

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140,097 41,590

Cash flows from investing activities:

Capital expenditures, net of dispositions

(8,179) (5,952)

Purchase of investments, net of proceeds

(36,268 ) (83,232)

Net cash used for investing activities

(44,447) (89,184)

Cash flows from financing activities:

Payments on debt and capital leases

(53) (10,053 )

Proceeds from other long-term debt

20,000

Purchase of treasury stock

(127,780) (50,864 )

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Excess tax benefits from share-based payment arrangements

10,260

Exercise of stock in connection with stock plans

10,719 13,314

Net cash used for financing activities

(86,854) (47,603 )

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

8,796 (95,197)

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period

88,059 207,619

Cash and cash equivalents at end of period

\$ 96,855 \$ 112,422

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Supplemental condensed consolidated statement of cash flows information:

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Cash paid during the period for interest

\$ (1,339) \$ (6,294)

Net cash received (paid) during the period for income taxes

(21,248 ) (23,908)

Non-cash investing and financing activities:

Senior convertible debentures converted into Sierra common stock

500 34,000

Tax benefits from share-based payment arrangements

10,260 14,580

Additions to capital leases

19

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

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Sierra Health Services, Inc.  
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

*(Unaudited)*

1. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the consolidated accounts of Sierra Health Services, Inc. ("Sierra", a holding company, together with its subsidiaries, collectively referred to herein as the "Company"). All material intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated. These statements and the Company's annual audited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; however, these statements do not contain all of the information and disclosures that would be required in a complete set of audited financial statements. They should, therefore, be read in conjunction with the Company's annual audited consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto for the year ended December 31, 2005. In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all material adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation of the financial results for the interim periods presented.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Such estimates and assumptions could change in the future as more information becomes available, which could impact the amounts reported and disclosed herein. Actual results may differ materially from estimates.

Certain amounts in the condensed consolidated financial statements for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

On December 7, 2005, the Company's Board of Directors approved a two-for-one stock split in the form of a 100% stock dividend effective December 30, 2005. Consequently, all common stock shares and per share amounts, including the number of shares and average prices per share paid under the Company's share repurchase program reflect the retroactive effects of the two-for-one common stock split. Since the common stock dividend was issued on outstanding shares, the shares held as treasury stock at December 30, 2005 were not adjusted to reflect the two-for-one split.

2. Investments

Of the cash and cash equivalents and current unrestricted investments that total \$381.8 million in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet at June 30, 2006, \$338.8 million is limited for use only by the Company's regulated subsidiaries. Such amounts are available for transfer to Sierra from the regulated subsidiaries only to the extent that they can be remitted in accordance with terms of existing management agreements and by dividends, which customarily must be approved by regulating state insurance departments. The remainder is available to Sierra on an unrestricted basis.

Investments consist primarily of U.S. Government and its agencies' securities, municipal bonds, corporate bonds, securities, trust deed mortgage notes, and real estate joint ventures. At June 30, 2006, approximately 63% of the Company's investment portfolio is invested in U.S. Government and its agencies' securities and municipal bonds. All non-restricted investments that are designated as available-for-sale are classified as current assets and stated at fair value. Fair value is estimated primarily from published market values at the balance sheet date. These investments are

available for use in the current operations regardless of contractual maturity dates. Restricted investments are classified as non-current assets. The Company calculates realized gains and losses using the specific identification method and includes them in investment and other revenues. Unrealized holding gains and losses on available-for-sale investments are included as a separate component of stockholders' equity, net of income tax effects, until realized. The Company does not have any held-to-maturity investments. The Company does not believe any of its available-for-sale and restricted investments are other than temporarily impaired at June 30, 2006.

The Company classifies investments in trust deed mortgage notes and real estate joint ventures as other investments. These investments are classified as current assets if expected maturity is within one year of the balance sheet date.

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Otherwise, they are classified as long-term investments. The Company believes that its investments in trust deed mortgage notes and real estate joint ventures are properly stated at June 30, 2006.

### 3. Long-Term Debt

#### Sierra Debentures

- In March 2003, the Company issued \$115.0 million aggregate principal amount of its 2¼% senior convertible debentures due March 15, 2023. The debentures are not guaranteed by any of Sierra's subsidiaries. The debentures pay interest, which is due semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 of each year. Each \$1,000 principal amount of debentures is convertible, at the option of the holders, into 109.3494 shares of the Company's common stock before March 15, 2023 if: (i) the market price of the Company's common stock for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the preceding fiscal quarter exceeds 120% of the conversion price per share of the Company's common stock; (ii) the debentures are called for redemption; (iii) there is an event of default with respect to the debentures; or (iv) specified corporate transactions have occurred. Beginning December 2003, and for each subsequent period, the market price of the Company's common stock exceeded 120% of the conversion price for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days. The conversion rate is subject to certain adjustments. This conversion rate represents a conversion price of \$9.145 per share. Holders of the debentures may require the Company to repurchase all or a portion of their debentures on March 15 in 2008, 2013 and 2018, or upon certain corporate events, including a change in control. In either case, the Company may choose to pay the purchase price of such debentures in cash or common stock or a combination of cash and common stock. The Company can redeem the debentures for cash beginning on or after March 20, 2008.

During 2005, the Company received offers and entered into five separate privately negotiated transactions with debenture holders ("holders") pursuant to which the holders converted an aggregate of \$63.0 million of debentures they owned into approximately 6.9 million shares of Sierra common stock in accordance with the indenture governing the debentures. During the first quarter of 2006, a holder converted \$500,000 in debentures for approximately 54,000 shares of common stock.

#### Revolving Credit Facility -

On March 3, 2003, the Company entered into revolving credit facility. Effective June 26, 2006, the current facility was further amended to extend the maturity from December 31, 2009 to June 26, 2011, increase the availability from \$140.0 million to \$250.0 million and reduce the drawn and undrawn fees. The current incremental borrowing rate is LIBOR plus .60%. The facility is available for general corporate purposes and at June 30, 2006, the Company had \$20.0 million drawn on this facility.

The credit facility remains secured by guarantees by certain of the Company's subsidiaries and a first priority perfected security interest in (i) all of the capital stock of each of the Company's unregulated, material domestic subsidiaries (direct or indirect) as well as all of the capital stock of certain regulated, material domestic subsidiaries; and (ii) all other present and future assets and properties of the Company and those of its subsidiaries that guarantee the credit agreement obligations (including, without limitation, accounts receivable, inventory, certain real property, equipment, contracts, trademarks, copyrights, patents, license rights and general intangibles) subject, in each case, to the exclusion of the capital stock of CII Financial, Inc. ("CII") and certain other exclusions.

The revolving credit facility's covenants limit the Company's ability to dispose of assets, incur indebtedness, incur other liens, make investments, loans or advances, make acquisitions, engage in mergers or consolidations, make capital expenditures and otherwise restrict certain corporate activities. The Company's ability to pay dividends, repurchase its common stock and prepay other debt is unlimited provided that the Company can still exceed a certain

required leverage ratio after such transaction or any borrowing incurred as a result of such transaction. In addition, the Company is required to comply with specified financial ratios as set forth in the credit agreement. The Company believes it is in compliance with all covenants of the credit agreement.

#### 4. Employee and Director Benefit Plans

##### Stock-Based Compensation

- The Company's employee stock plan and non-employee director stock plan provide common stock-based awards to employees and to non-employee directors. The plans provide for the granting of

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options, stock and other stock-based awards. At June 30, 2006, the employee plan and the non-employee director plan permits the granting of share options and shares of up to 4.2 million and 232,000 shares, respectively, of common stock. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors grants awards. Awards become exercisable at such times and in such installments as set by the committee. The exercise price of options equals the market price of the Company's stock on the date of grant. Stock options generally vest at a rate of 20% - 100% per year and expire from five to ten years from the date of grant. Additionally, the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Purchase Plan") allows employees to purchase newly issued shares of common stock through payroll deductions at 85% of the fair market value of such shares on the lower of the first trading day of the plan period or the last trading day of the plan period as defined in the Purchase Plan. In January 2006, 158,000 shares were purchased at a price of \$30.67 per share. At June 30, 2006, the Company had 819,000 shares reserved for purchase under the Purchase Plan, of which 49,000 shares were purchased by employees at \$34.42 per share in July 2006.

In December 2004, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), "Share-Based Payment" ("SFAS 123R"), which replaced Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation" ("SFAS 123") and superseded Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, "Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees," ("APB 25") as amended. SFAS 123R requires all share-based payments, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values. The pro forma disclosures previously permitted under SFAS 123 are no longer an alternative to financial statement recognition. On January 1, 2006, the Company adopted SFAS 123R using a modified prospective application. Accordingly, prior period amounts have not been restated. Under this application, the Company is required to record compensation expense for all awards granted after the date of adoption and for the unvested portion of previously granted awards that remain outstanding at the date of adoption.

The following table summarizes the stock-based compensation expense included in the Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for stock options and purchases under the Purchase Plan that were recorded in accordance with SFAS 123R:

	Three Months Ended	Six Months Ended
	<i>(In thousands)</i>	
Medical expenses	\$ 234	\$ 421
General and administrative expenses	1,024	2,364
	<u>1,258</u>	<u>2,785</u>
Stock-based compensation expense before income taxes	(440)	(975)
	<u>\$ 818</u>	<u>\$ 1,810</u>

As of June 30, 2006, the Company expects to recognize future total compensation cost of \$6.2 million related to current nonvested shares over a weighted-average period of 1.1 years.

For the six months ended June 30, 2006, net cash proceeds realized from stock option exercises and purchases under the Purchase Plan were \$10.7 million and the actual tax benefit realized from stock option exercises and purchases under the Purchase Plan was \$10.3 million.

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The application of SFAS 123R had the following effect on reported amounts relative to the amounts that would have been reported using the intrinsic value method prescribed by APB 25, which the Company used before adopting SFAS 123R.

## Three Months Ended June 30, 2006

	Under APB 25	As Reported Under SFAS 123R	Difference
<i>(In thousands, except per share data)</i>			
Operating income			
Income before income taxes	52,736	51,478	
Net income	34,352	\$ 33,534	\$ (818)
Basic earnings per share	(0.01)		
Dilutive earnings per share	0.55	0.54	(0.01)
Cash flow from operating activities	(5.2)		
Cash flow from financing activities	(33.9)		

## Six Months Ended June 30, 2006

	Under APB 25	As Reported Under SFAS 123R	Difference
<i>(In thousands, except per share data)</i>			
Operating income	\$ 105,646	\$ 102,861	\$ (2,785)
Income before income taxes	\$ 103,844	\$ 101,059	\$ (2,785)
Net income	\$ 68,015	\$ 66,205	\$ (1,810)
Basic earnings per share	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.16	\$ (0.03)
Dilutive earnings per share	1.08	1.05	(0.03)
Cash flow from operating activities	\$ 150.4	\$ 140.1	\$ (10.3)
Cash flow from financing activities	(97.2)	(86.9)	10.3

Before January 1, 2006, the Company accounted for its stock-based compensation using the intrinsic value method prescribed by APB 25. Accordingly, no compensation cost was recognized for the Company's employee stock plans except for those expenses associated with restricted stock units and certain stock options in which vesting was or had been agreed to be accelerated.

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The following table represents the effect on net income and earnings per share if the Company had applied the fair value based method and recognition provisions of SFAS 123 to stock-based compensation for the three and six months ended June 30, 2005.

	Three Months Ended	Six Months Ended
	June 30, 2005	
	(In thousands, except per share data)	
Net income, as reported	\$ 33,836	\$ 63,241
Less: total stock-based employee compensation expense determined under fair value based methods for all awards, net of tax	(2,394)	(3,537)
Pro forma net income	\$ 31,442	\$ 59,704
Net income per share, as reported	\$ 0.62	\$ 1.18
Pro forma net income, per share	0.58	1.11
Net income per share assuming dilution, as reported	\$ 0.51	
Pro forma net income, per share	0.47	0.89

The fair value of stock options granted and shares purchased under the Purchase Plan were estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

		Stock Options	
Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2006 <sup>(1)</sup>	2005	2006 <sup>(1)</sup>
Risk-free interest rates	3.69%	.69	2.16
Expected volatility	41.60%		3.68%
Dividend yield			50.60%
Weighted-average fair value at grant date	12.45	\$	15.23

(1) No stock options were granted during the period.

## Purchase Plan

Three Months Ended June 30,	
Six Months Ended June 30,	
2006 <sup>(1)</sup>	2005 <sup>(1)</sup>
2006	2005

Average expected term (years) .50.50Risk-free interest rates 4.32%2.58

%

Expected volatility 34.70%27.76

%

Dividend yield Weighted-average fair value at grant date

\$

9.95

\$

6.30

(1)

No shares were granted under the Purchase Plan during the period.

The computation of expected volatility is based on a combination of the Company's historical and market-based implied volatility. The computation of average expected term is based on the Company's historical exercise patterns. The risk-free interest rate for periods within the contractual life of the award is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant.

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The following table reflects the activity of the stock option plans for the six months ended June 30, 2006:

	Number Of Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Contractual Life Remaining	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
<i>(In thousands)</i>	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Outstanding, January 1, 2006	2,844	\$ 11.09		
Granted				
Exercised	(861)	7.42		
Canceled	(37)	7.94		
Outstanding, June 30, 2006	1,946	12.78	5.91	\$ 62,759
Exercisable at June 30, 2006	717	12.80	5.05	\$ 23,100

The aggregate intrinsic value in the table above represents the total pretax intrinsic value (the difference between the market price of the Company's stock on June 30, 2006 and the exercise price, times the number of shares) that would have been received by the option holders had all option holders exercised their options on June 30, 2006. This amount changes based on the market value of the Company's stock. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the three months ended June 30, 2006 and 2005 was \$14.8 million and \$25.2 million, respectively. The total intrinsic value of options exercised during the six months ended June 30, 2006 and 2005 was \$28.7 million and \$41.1 million, respectively.

The following table reflects the activity of the nonvested shares for the six months ended June 30, 2006:

	Number Of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
<i>(In thousands)</i>		
Nonvested shares, January 1, 2006 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,558	\$ 6.44
Granted		
Vested	(471)	5.55
Canceled	(27)	6.26
Nonvested shares, June 30, 2006 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,060	

(1) Excludes 172,000 and 169,000 shares at January 1, 2006 and June 30, 2006, respectively, that vested in 2005, but are not exercisable until 2008.

### Restricted Stock Units

- In January 2006, the Company issued 4,000 units of restricted stock ("Units") to each of the six non-employee Directors. Each Unit represents a nontransferable right to receive one share of the Company's common stock and there is no cost by the recipient to exercise the Units. The Units vest on the fourth anniversary of the grant date or earlier based on certain events. The value of the transaction was based on the number of Units issued and the Company stock price on the date of issuance, which was \$38.49. Total expense associated with the Units was \$114,000 and \$239,000 for the three and six months ended June 30, 2006.

### Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan -

As of June 30, 2006, the Company contributed \$365,000 to its defined benefit plan to fund benefit payments and anticipates making approximately \$365,000 in additional contributions during 2006.

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	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
<i>(In thousands)</i>				
Components of net periodic benefit cost:				
Service cost	\$ 126	\$ 95	\$ 252	\$ 189
Interest cost	399	320	798	641
Amortization of prior service credits	303	302	606	605
Recognized actuarial loss	32	64		
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 860	\$ 717	\$ 1,720	\$ 1,435

**5. Share Repurchases**

From January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006, the Company purchased 3.1 million shares of its common stock, in the open market or through negotiated transactions, for \$127.8 million at an average cost per share of \$40.91. Since the repurchase program began in early 2003 and through June 30, 2006, the Company purchased, in the open market or through negotiated transactions, 25.2 million shares for \$515.5 million at an average cost per share of \$20.45.

On both February 16, 2006 and April 20, 2006, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the Company to purchase an additional \$75.0 million, for a total of \$150.0 million in share repurchases. At July 25, 2006, \$64.4 million was available under the Board of Directors' authorized plan. The repurchase program has no stated expiration date. The Company's revolving credit facility, as amended, allows for unlimited stock repurchases based on meeting the required leverage ratio.

**6. Earnings Per Share**

The following table provides a reconciliation of basic and diluted earnings per share:

Three Months Ended June 30,	
Six Months Ended June 30,	
2006	
2005	
2006	
2005	

*(In thousands, except per share data)*

Basic income per share:

Net income

\$33,534 \$33,836 \$ 66,205 \$ 63,241

Weighted average common shares outstanding

56,074 54,398 56,896 53,824

Net income per common share

\$0.60 \$0.62 \$1.16 \$1.18

Diluted income per share:

Net income

\$33,534 \$33,836 \$ 66,205 \$ 63,241

Interest expense on Sierra debentures, net of tax

188 407 377 827

Income for purposes of computing diluted net income per share

\$33,722 \$34,243 \$ 66,582 \$ 64,068

Weighted average common shares outstanding

56,074 54,398 56,896 53,824

Dilutive options and restricted shares outstanding

892 2,042 990 2,238

Dilutive impact of conversion of Sierra debentures

5,631 11,342 5,639 11,954

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Weighted average common shares outstanding assuming dilution

62,597 67,782 63,525 68,016

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Net income per common share assuming dilution

\$0.54 \$0.51 \$1.05 \$0.94

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## 7. Comprehensive Income

The following table presents comprehensive income for the periods indicated:

	Three Months Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2006	2005	2006	2005
	<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Net income	\$ 33,534	\$ 33,836	\$ 66,205	\$ 63,241
Change in net unrealized holding loss on available-for-sale investments	(1,077)	289	(150)	
Comprehensive income	\$ 32,457	\$ 34,125	\$ 64,080	\$ 63,091

**8. Recently Issued Accounting Standards**

In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (

"FASB") issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes - an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109" ("FIN 48"). FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes". FIN 48 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. FIN 48 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. FIN 48 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of FIN 48 will have on its consolidated financial position or results of operations. **9. Segment Reporting**

The Company has two reportable segments based on the products and services offered: managed care and corporate operations, and military health services operations. The managed care segment includes managed health care services provided through a health maintenance organization ("HMO"), managed indemnity plans, third-party administrative services programs for employer-funded health benefit plans and self-insured workers' compensation plans, multi-specialty medical groups, other ancillary services and corporate operations. The military health services segment administered a managed care federal contract for the Department of Defense's TRICARE program in Region 1.

Sierra Military Health Services LLC ("SMHS") completed the fifth year of a five-year contract in May 2003. SMHS then operated under a negotiated contract extension period, which ended August 31, 2004. The new contractor became operational on September 1, 2004 and the new contract superseded the remainder of the Company's TRICARE Region 1 contract. On September 1, 2004, SMHS commenced a phase-out of operations at prices previously negotiated with the Department of Defense ("DoD"). SMHS did not meet the definition of discontinued operations since the Company did not have plans to dispose of the operations before the phase-out was completed.

During 2005, the Company reached a negotiated settlement with the DoD for certain outstanding change orders and bid price adjustments related to option period six and the phase-out of its military health care operations. Included in the settlement was the determination of the final military health care payable balance.

Through participation in Medicare, TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan programs, the Company generated approximately 45% and 40% of its total consolidated revenues from agencies of the U.S. government for the three months ended June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The Company generated approximately 46% and 39% of its total consolidated revenues from agencies of the U.S. government for the six months ended June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The TRICARE revenue is presented below in the military health services operations segment and the remainder of the revenue described above is included in the managed care and corporate operations

segment.

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The Company evaluates each segment's performance based on segment operating profit. The accounting policies of the operating segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies.

Information concerning the operations of the reportable segments is as follows:

	Managed Care And Corporate Operations	Military Health Services Operations	Total
<i>(In thousands)</i>			
Three months ended June 30, 2006			
Medical premiums	\$ 400,664	\$	\$ 400,664
Professional fees	12,882		12,882
Investment and other revenues	10,886	6	10,892
Total revenue	\$ 424,432	\$ 6	\$ 424,438
Segment operating profit	\$ 52,465	\$ 6	\$ 52,471
Interest expense	(1,002)		(1,002)
Other income (expense), net	9		9
Income before income taxes	\$ 51,472	\$ 6	\$ 51,478
Three months ended June 30, 2005			
Medical premiums	\$ 320,395	\$	\$ 320,395
Military contract revenues		9,952	9,952
Professional fees	10,116		10,116
Investment and other revenues	7,230	334	7,564
Total revenue	\$ 337,741	\$ 10,286	\$ 348,027
Segment operating profit	\$ 44,350	\$ 12,020	\$ 56,370
Interest expense	(4,348)	(1)	(4,349)
Other income (expense), net	654	(352)	302
Income before income taxes	\$ 40,656	\$ 11,667	\$ 52,323

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**10. Commitments and Contingencies**

**Litigation and Legal Matters** - Although the Company has not been sued, Sierra was identified in discovery submissions in pending class action litigation against major managed care companies, as having allegedly participated in an unlawful conspiracy to improperly deny, diminish or delay payments to physicians. In Re: Managed Care Litigation, MDL No. 1334 (S.D.FI.).

Beginning in 1999, a series of class action lawsuits were filed against many major firms in the health benefits business alleging an unlawful conspiracy to deny, diminish or delay payments to physicians. The Company has not been named as a defendant in these lawsuits. A multi-district litigation panel has consolidated some of these cases in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division. In the lead case, known as *Shane*, the amended complaint alleges multiple violations under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"). The suit seeks injunctive, compensatory and equitable relief as well as restitution, costs, fees and interest payments. On April 7, 2003, the United States Supreme Court determined that certain claims against certain defendants should be arbitrated.

Subsequent lower court rulings have further resolved which of the plaintiffs' claims are subject to arbitration. In 2004, the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit upheld a district court ruling certifying a plaintiff class in the *Shane* case. In February 2005, the district court determined to bifurcate the case, holding a trial phase limited to liability issues, and a second, if necessary, regarding damages.

Aetna, Inc., CIGNA Corporation, the Prudential Insurance Company of America, Wellpoint Inc., Health Net Inc. and Humana Inc. have entered into settlement agreements which have been approved by the district court. On January 31, 2006, the trial court granted summary judgment on all claims to defendant PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc. ("PacifiCare"), finding that plaintiffs had failed to provide documents or other evidence showing that PacifiCare agreed to participate in the alleged conspiracy. On June 19, 2006, the trial court granted summary judgment on all remaining claims against the two remaining defendants, UnitedHealth Group, Inc. and Coventry Health Care, Inc., because the plaintiffs had not submitted evidence that would allow a jury to reasonably find that either had been part of a conspiracy to underpay doctors or that either had aided or abetted alleged RICO violations. Plaintiffs have not announced whether they intend to appeal. Plaintiffs in the *Shane* proceeding had stated their intention to introduce evidence at trial concerning Sierra and other parties not named as defendants in the litigation.

The Company is subject to other various claims and litigation in the ordinary course of business. Such litigation includes, but is not limited to, claims of medical malpractice, claims for coverage or payment for medical services rendered to HMO and other members, and claims by providers for payment for medical services rendered to HMO and other members. Some litigation may also include claims for punitive damages that are not covered by insurance. These actions are in various stages of litigation and some may ultimately be brought to trial.

For all existing litigation and legal matters, the Company accrued amounts it believes to be appropriate, based on information presently available, for claims that are considered probable and for which the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. With respect to certain pending actions, the Company maintains commercial insurance coverage with varying deductibles for which the Company maintains estimated reserves for its self-insured portion based upon its current assessment of such litigation. Due to recent unfavorable changes in the commercial insurance market, the Company has for certain risks, purchased coverage with higher deductibles and lower limits of coverage. In the opinion of management, based on information presently available, the amount or range of any potential loss for certain claims and litigation cannot be reasonably estimated or is not considered probable. However, the ultimate resolutions of these pending legal proceedings are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition.



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**Management's Discussion And Analysis Of Financial  
Condition And Results Of Operations**

**Item 2.**

The following discussion and analysis provides information that management believes is relevant for an assessment and understanding of our consolidated financial condition and results of operations. The discussion should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes for the year ended December 31, 2005, and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," included in our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 21, 2006, and in conjunction with our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2006 and 2005, included in this Form 10-Q. The information contained below is subject to risk factors. We urge the reader to review carefully the sections "Forward-Looking Statements" in Part 1, Item 1 and "Risk Factors" in Part 1, Item 1A of our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K for a more complete discussion of the risks associated with an investment in our securities.

This report on Form 10-Q contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, both as amended. The forward-looking statements regarding our business and results of operations should be considered by our stockholders or any reader of our business or financial information along with the risk factors discussed in our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements for purposes of federal and state securities laws. The cautionary statements are made pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended, and identify important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any projected, estimated or forward-looking statements relating to us. These forward-looking statements are generally identified by their use of terms and phrases such as "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "hope," "intend," "may," "plan," "predict," "project," "seeks," "will," and other similar terms and phrases, including all references to assumptions.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in any of our forward-looking statements are reasonable, actual results could differ materially from those projected or assumed in any of our forward-looking statements. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements that speak only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publish revised forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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Summary of Consolidated Results Three Months Ended June 30, 2006 and 2005

	Three Months Ended
June 30,	
	Percent Of Revenue Three Months Ended
June 30,	
	Increase
(Decrease)	
	2006
	2005
	2006
	2005
	2006 vs. 2005

*(In thousands, except percentages, per share and membership)*

Operating revenues:

Medical premiums

\$  
400,664  
\$

	320,395
	94.4
%	
	92.1
%	
	\$
	80,269
	25.1
%	
Military contract revenues	
	9,952
	2.8
(9,952) (100.0)	
Professional fees	
	12,882
	10,116
	3.0
	2.9
2,766 27.3	
	40

Investment and other revenues

	10,892
	7,564
	2.6
	2.2
	3,328
44.0	
Total	
	424,438
	348,027
	100.0
	100.0
	76,411
	22.0

Operating expenses:

Medical expenses

321,545

251,233

75.7

72.2

70,312

28.0

Medical care ratio

77.8%

76.0%

1.8

Military contract expenses

(1,734)

		(0.5)
1,734		
		(100.0)
General and administrative expenses		
		50,422
		42,158
		11.9
		12.1
8,264		
		19.6
Total		
		371,967
		291,657
		87.6
		43

83.8

80,310

27.5


Operating income

52,471

56,370

12.4

16.2

(3,899)

(6.9)

Interest expense

(1,002)

(4,349)

(0.3) (1.3)

	3,347
	(77.0)
Other income (expense), net	
	9
	302
	0.1
	(293)
	(97.0)
Income before income taxes	
	51,478
	52,323
	12.1
	15.0
	(845)
	45

		(1.6)
Provision for income taxes		
		(17,944)
		(18,487)
(4.2) (5.3)		
		543
		(2.9)
Tax rate		
		34.9%
		35.3%
		(0.4)
Net income		
		\$
		33,534
		\$
		33,836

	7.9
%	
	9.7
%	
	\$
	(302)
	(0.9)
%	
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Net income per common share assuming dilution	
	\$
	0.54
	\$
	0.51
	\$
	0.03
	5.9
% Membership	
HMO:	
Commercial	
	265,600
	245,100
	47

	20,500
	8.4
%	
Medicare	
	56,900
	54,700
	2,200
	4.0
Medicaid	
	56,700
	52,000
	4,700
	9.0
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Subtotal HMO	
	379,200

	351,800
	27,400
	7.8
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PPO:	
Commercial	
	29,800
	27,400
	2,400
	8.8
Medicare	
	1,300
	1,300
	100.0
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Subtotal PPO	

	31,100
	27,400
	3,700
	13.5
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Medicare Part D	
	180,300
	180,300
	100.0
Medicare supplement	
	14,000
	16,100
	(2,100)
	(13.0)
Administrative services	
	219,700

	190,400
	29,300
	15.4
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Total membership	
	824,300
	585,700
	238,600
	40.7
%	
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Member months	
HMO:	
Commercial	
	789,800
	730,200
	59,600
	8.2
%	
Medicare	

	169,800
	163,300
	6,500
	4.0
Medicaid	
	169,000
	154,900
	14,100
	9.1

The table above should be reviewed in association with the discussion that follows.

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Summary of Consolidated Results Six Months Ended June 30, 2006 and 2005

Six Months Ended June 30,

Percent Of Revenue  
Six Months Ended June 30,

Increase (Decrease)

2006

2005

2006

2005

2006 vs. 2005

*(In thousands, except percentages, per share and membership)*

Operating revenues:

Medical premiums

\$

815,108

\$

631,750

	94.5
%	
	92.4
%	
	\$
	183,358
	29.0
%	
Military contract revenues	
	16,311
	2.4
(16,311) (100.0)	
Professional fees	
	25,797
	19,969
	3.0
	2.9
5,828 29.2	
Investment and other revenues	

	21,781
	15,856
	2.5
	2.3
	5,925
37.4	
Total	
	862,686
	683,886
	100.0
	100.0
	178,800
	26.1

Operating expenses:

Medical expenses

658,064

496,188

76.3

72.6

161,876

32.6

Medical care ratio

78.3%

76.1%

2.2

Military contract expenses

138

2,373

		0.3
(2,235)		
		(94.2)
General and administrative expenses		
		101,623
		83,631
		11.8
		12.2
17,992		
		21.5
Total		
		759,825
		582,192
		88.1
		57

85.1

177,633

30.5


Operating income

102,861

101,694

11.9

14.9

1,167

1.1

Interest expense

(1,778)

(5,980)

(0.2) (0.9)

4,202

(70.3)

Other income (expense), net

(24)

401

0.1

(425)

(106.0)


Income before income taxes

101,059

96,115

11.7

14.1

	4,944
	5.1
Provision for income taxes	
	(34,854)
	(32,874)
(4.0) (4.8)	
	(1,980)
	6.0
Tax rate	
	34.5%
	34.2%
	0.3
Net income	
	\$
	66,205
	\$
	63,241
	60

## 7.7

%

9.3

%

\$

2,964

4.7

%

Net income per common share assuming dilution

\$

1.05

§

0.94

\$

0.11

11.7

%	Member months
100	100
90	90
80	80
70	70
60	60
50	50
40	40
30	30
20	20
10	10
0	0

HMO:

Commercial

1,567,300

	1,446,600
	120,700
	8.3
%	
Medicare	
	338,700
	324,600
	14,100
	4.3
Medicaid	
	336,000
	306,500
	29,500
	9.6

The table above should be reviewed in association with the discussion that follows.

Overview

We are a managed health care organization that provides and administers the delivery of comprehensive health care programs with an emphasis on quality care and cost management. Our strategy has been to develop and offer a

portfolio of managed health care products to government agencies, employer groups, and individuals. We derive revenues primarily from our health maintenance organization (HMO) and managed indemnity plans. To a lesser extent, we also derive revenues from professional fees (consisting primarily of fees for providing health care services to non-members, co-payment fees received from members and ancillary products), and investment and other revenue (including fees for workers' compensation third party administration, utilization management services and ancillary products).

Our principal expenses consist of medical expenses and general and administrative expenses. Medical expenses represent capitation fees and other fee-for-service payments, including hospital per diems, paid to independent contracted physicians, hospitals and other health care providers to cover members, pharmacy costs, as well as the aggregate expenses to operate and manage our wholly-owned multi-specialty medical group and other provider subsidiaries. As a provider of health care management services, we seek to positively affect quality of care and expenses by contracting with physicians, hospitals and other health care providers at negotiated price levels, by adopting quality assurance programs, monitoring and coordinating utilization of physician and hospital services and providing incentives to use cost-effective providers. General and administrative expenses generally represent operational costs other than those directly associated with the delivery of health care services.

#### Executive Summary

Our highlights for the six months ended June 30, 2006 compared to the six months ended June 30, 2005 include:

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- Total operating revenues improved by 26.1%. This increase was primarily driven by a 29% increase in medical premiums due to our participation in the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program (PDP), an increase in our HMO membership and premium rate increases. Also contributing to the improvement in operating revenues was a 37.4% increase in investment and other revenues, which increased due to an increase in yield during 2006 and higher average invested balances.
- HMO membership increased 7.8% as a result of new accounts and in-case growth.
- Medical expenses, as a percentage of medical premiums and professional fees, or medical care ratio, increased by 220 basis points as a result of the much higher medical care ratio related to the PDP.
- General and administrative (G&A) expenses as a percentage of medical premiums decreased to 12.5% in 2006 from 13.2% in 2005. G&A expenses increased 21.5% primarily due to PDP related expenses, and higher employee compensation related expenses, premium taxes, and brokers' fees.
- Operating income for our managed care and corporate operations improved 18.0% primarily driven by medical premium revenue growth from new members and premium rate increases. Our total operating margin, which is operating income divided by total revenues, decreased 300 basis points as a result of the lower operating margin for the PDP.
- We repurchased 3.1 million shares of our common stock during 2006. Our weighted average common shares outstanding assuming dilution has decreased from 68.0 million in 2005 to 63.5 million in 2006.
- Our net income per common share assuming dilution increased 11.7%.
- Cash flows from operating activities increased to \$140.1 million from \$41.6 during 2005. We received seven months of payments from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the first six months of 2006 as the July CMS payments were received at the end of June. We received five months of payments from CMS in the first six months of 2005 as the January CMS payments were received at the end of December 2004. This difference in timing of CMS payments resulted in an increase in cash flows of \$121.5 million. The increase was partially offset by operating cash flow used for the PDP. When adjusted for the timing differences noted above, we had negative cash flow of \$25.0 million related to the PDP. The negative cash flow is primarily due to CMS reconciliation issues and insufficient funding from CMS for our reimbursable low-income subsidy costs. These costs will be fully reimbursed after CMS performs their year-end reconciliation.

## Results Of Operations, Three Months Ended June 30, 2006, Compared To Three Months Ended June 30, 2005

### Medical Premiums

- The increase in medical premiums for 2006 reflects an 8.2% increase in commercial HMO member months (the number of months individuals are enrolled in a plan), which is attributed to in-case growth, movement from self-insured plans to our commercial products and new accounts. HMO and HMO Point of Service premium rates for renewing commercial groups increased approximately 5.0% while the overall recorded per member per month revenue increase, including new and continuing business, was approximately 2.0%, net of changes in benefits.

The increase in medical premiums for 2006 includes \$49.7 million from our stand-alone PDP described below, which was effective January 1, 2006. We recognize medical premiums from the PDP as earned over the contract period. The increase in medical premiums for 2006 also reflects the annual Medicare increase described below and a 4.0% increase in HMO Medicare member months. The growth in Medicare member months contributes significantly to the increase in medical premiums as the Medicare per member premium rates are more than three times the average commercial premium rate.

PDP States

In 2005, CMS selected us to participate in the new voluntary PDP for our Medicare Advantage plans as well as a stand-alone program. We were also selected to participate in a local and regional Medicare Advantage PPO plans. Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc. (SHL) offers the stand-alone PDP, marketed under the brand name SierraRx, in eight regions covering Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington. SHL has also been selected as a PDP sponsor in the same states for dual-eligible Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries who are auto-enrolled into the program. SierraRx covers a wide variety of preferred generic and brand name prescription drugs that are distributed through most major retail pharmacy chains and a large number of independent pharmacies. At June 30, 2006, we had 180,300 beneficiaries enrolled in the PDP, the majority of which were dual-eligible beneficiaries.

Effective January 2004, CMS adopted a new risk adjustment payment methodology for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in managed care programs, including the Social HMO, which has been administratively extended by CMS through 2007. For Social HMO members, the new methodology includes a frailty adjuster that uses measures of functional impairment to predict expenditures. CMS is transitioning to the new payment methodology on a graduated basis from 2004 through 2007 and we will be completely transitioned to the new methodology effective January 1, 2008. In 2005, we were paid 70% based on the previous payment methodology and 30% based on the new methodology. For 2006 and 2007, we will be paid 50% and 25%, based on the previous payment methodology and 50% and 75%, based on the new methodology, respectively. The new payment methodology reduced our 2006 annual Medicare increase by 240 basis points. Including the effect of the revised Medicare Advantage bid process, changes in membership mix and the additional payments for the PDP, our net 2006 Medicare increase was approximately 7%.

Early in 2005, CMS replaced its legacy Group Health Plan system. The transition to the new system had led to some incorrect transactions and inconsistencies in the payments and data we received from CMS. While we believe the transactions and payments received in 2006 have been complete and accurate, we received overpayments from CMS in excess of our current best estimate of Medicare premiums in 2005. We have made CMS aware of the issue and they are in the process of researching it. We expect these funds to be settled with CMS over the course of the next several quarters.

Pursuant to an existing contract with the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy of the state of Nevada (DHCFP), we provide health care coverage to certain Medicaid eligible individuals and uninsured children who do not qualify for Medicaid. At June 30, 2006, we had approximately 43,300 members enrolled in our HMO Medicaid risk program. To enroll in this program, an individual must be eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or the Children's Health Assurance Program categories of the state's Medicaid program. At June 30, 2006, we also have approximately 13,400 Nevada Check Up members. Nevada Check Up is the state's Children's Health Insurance Program, which covers certain uninsured children who do not qualify for Medicaid. We receive a monthly fee for each Medicaid and Nevada Check Up member enrolled by the state's Managed Care Division and we also receive a per case fee for each Medicaid and Nevada Check Up eligible newborn delivery. We received a 1.0% increase in Medicaid rates for 2005 compared to a 0.9% decrease on January 1, 2006, due in large part to our mix of Medicaid members; however, we received a 2.6% increase on our current rate on July 1, 2006.

Our current contract to provide certain Medicaid services has been extended to October 31, 2006. We received notice from the DHCFP of its intent to award a contract to Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. as one of two Medicaid managed care contractors in the state of Nevada. The award is subject to the negotiation of final contract terms and specifications. Once awarded, the new contract will be effective until June 30, 2009. The new contract includes a provision that allows the DHCFP, at its sole option, to extend the contract for up to two additional years.

Continued medical premium revenue growth is principally dependent upon continued enrollment in our products and upon competitive and regulatory factors.

### Military Contract Revenues

- The decrease in military contract revenues resulted from Sierra Military Health Services LLC (SMHS) completing its health care operations under the TRICARE contract on August 31, 2004. On

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September 1, 2004, SMHS commenced a phase-out of operations at prices previously negotiated with the Department of Defense (DoD). Revenues for 2005 primarily related to the phase-out and final settlement of the military health care operations.

### Professional Fees

- The increase in professional fees primarily resulted from increased visits to our clinical subsidiaries and a new contract to provide anesthesiology services to a local hospital, which started in the third quarter of 2005.

### Investment and Other Revenues -

Higher average invested balances and an increase in yield during 2006 primarily contributed to the increase in investment and other revenues. See Note 2, Investments, in the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

### Medical Expenses

- Our medical care ratio increased 180 basis points primarily due to the PDP, which had medical expenses of \$41.6 million and has a much higher medical care ratio than our other products. Medical premiums from the PDP are recognized as earned over the contract period; however, pharmacy and administrative costs are recognized as incurred with no allocation or annualized estimation of the impact of deductibles, the coverage gap or "donut hole," prior to it being reached by the member, or reinsurance. This method of recognizing revenues and expenses results in a disproportionate amount of expense in the first part of each contract year when the plan is responsible for a larger portion of the drug cost.

The number of days in claims payable, which is the medical claims payable balance divided by the average medical expense per day, for 2006, was 41.88 compared to 44.01 for 2005. The decrease is primarily due to the increase in pharmacy claims related to the PDP, which have a shorter payment cycle than our other medical claims.

We contract with hospitals, physicians and other independent providers of health care under capitated or discounted fee-for-service arrangements, including hospital per diems, to provide medical care services to members. We also have an extensive pharmacy network to provide pharmaceuticals to our members. Capitated providers are at risk for a portion of the cost of medical care services provided to our members in the relevant geographic areas; however, we are ultimately responsible for the provision of services to our members should the capitated provider be unable to provide the contracted services. We incurred capitation expenses with non-affiliated providers of \$33.0 million and \$32.4 million, or 10.3% and 12.9%, of our total medical expenses for 2006 and 2005, respectively. Also included in medical expenses are the operating expenses of the Company's medical provider subsidiaries and certain claims-related administrative expenses, which accounted for 28.3% and 33.1% of our total medical expenses for 2006 and 2005, respectively.

### Military Contract Expenses

- The decrease in military contract expenses resulted from SMHS completing its final month of health care operations under the TRICARE contract in August 2004. Expenses for 2005 primarily related to the phase-out and final settlement of the military health care operations.

### General and Administrative Expenses

- G&A expenses increased primarily due to PDP related expenses, and higher employee compensation related expenses, premium taxes, and brokers' fees. As a percentage of medical premiums, G&A expenses were 12.6% for 2006, compared to 13.2% for 2005.

### Interest Expense

- Debenture holders converted \$63.0 million of our senior convertible debentures in the second and third quarters of 2005. This conversion resulted in a decrease in interest expense in 2006 compared to 2005.

## Provision for Income Taxes

- Our effective tax rate is less than the statutory rate due primarily to tax-preferred investments. The 2006 tax rate was lower than 2005 primarily due to a decrease in state income taxes from our military health services operations segment, which had no state income taxes in 2006.

Our effective tax rate is based on actual or expected income, statutory tax rates and tax planning opportunities available to us. We use significant estimates and judgments in determining our effective tax rate. We are occasionally audited by federal, state or local jurisdictions regarding compliance with federal, state and local tax laws and the recognition of income and deductibility of expenses. Tax assessments may not arise until several years after tax returns are filed. While there is an element of uncertainty in predicting the outcome of tax audits, we believe that the recorded tax assets and liabilities are appropriately stated based on our analyses of probable

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outcomes, including interest and other potential adjustments. Our tax assets and liabilities are adjusted based on the most current facts and circumstances, including the progress of audits, case law and emerging legislation; any adjustments are included in the effective tax rate in the current period.

### Results Of Operations, Six Months Ended June 30, 2006, Compared To Six Months Ended June 30, 2005

#### Medical Premiums

- The increase in medical premiums for 2006 reflects an 8.3% increase in commercial HMO member months, a 9.6% increase in Medicaid member months and a 4.3% increase in Medicare member months. The growth in Medicare member months contributes significantly to the increase in premium revenues as the Medicare per member premium rates are more than three times the average commercial premium rate. The increase in medical premiums for 2006 also includes \$111.7 million from our stand-alone PDP, which was effective January 1, 2006.

HMO and HMO Point of Service premium rates for renewing commercial groups increased approximately 5.2% while the overall recorded per member per month revenue increase, including new and continuing business, was approximately 2.7%, net of changes in benefits. The annual Medicare rate increase was approximately 7%.

#### Military Contract Revenues

- The decrease in military contract revenues resulted from SMHS completing its health care operations under the TRICARE contract on August 31, 2004. On September 1, 2004, SMHS commenced a phase-out of operations at prices previously negotiated with the DoD. Revenues for 2005 primarily related to the phase-out and final settlement of the military health care operations.

#### Professional Fees

- The increase in professional fees primarily resulted from increased visits to our clinical subsidiaries and a new contract to provide anesthesiology services to a local hospital, which started in the third quarter of 2005.

#### Investment and Other Revenues -

Higher average invested balances and an increase in yield during 2006 primarily contributed to the increase in investment and other revenues. See Note 2, Investments, in the Notes to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### Medical Expenses

- Our medical care ratio increased 220 basis points primarily due to the PDP, which had medical expenses of \$102.1 million and has a much higher medical care ratio than our other products. We incurred capitation expenses with non-affiliated providers of \$65.7 million and \$64.3 million, or 10.0% and 13.0%, of our total medical expenses for 2006 and 2005, respectively. Also included in medical expenses are the operating expenses of the Company's medical provider subsidiaries and certain claims-related administrative expenses, which accounted for 27.6% and 32.7% of our total medical expenses for 2006 and 2005, respectively.

#### Military Contract Expenses

- The decrease in military contract expenses resulted from SMHS completing its final month of health care operations under the TRICARE contract in August 2004. Expenses for 2005 primarily related to the phase-out and final settlement of the military health care operations.

#### General and Administrative Expenses

- G&A expenses increased primarily due to PDP related expenses, and higher employee compensation related expenses, premium taxes, and brokers' fees. As a percentage of medical premiums, G&A expenses were 12.5% for 2006, compared to 13.2% for 2005.

#### Interest Expense

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- Debenture holders converted \$63.0 million of our senior convertible debentures in the second and third quarters of 2005. This conversion resulted in a decrease in interest expense in 2006 compared to 2005.

### Provision for Income Taxes

- Our effective tax rate is less than the statutory rate due primarily to tax-preferred investments. The 2006 tax rate was higher than 2005 due to a tax benefit recorded in the first quarter of 2005 based on a reconciliation of our tax accounts to the previously filed income tax returns. The benefit in 2005 was partially offset by higher state income taxes from our military health services operations segment, which had no state income taxes in 2006.

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Liquidity and Capital Resources

A summary of our major sources and uses of cash for the six months ended June 30, 2006 and 2005 is reflected in the table below.

	Six Months Ended June 30,
2006	
2005	

*(In thousands)*

Sources of cash:

Cash provided by operating activities

\$140,097 \$41,590

Proceeds from other long-term debt

20,000

Other

20,979 13,314

Total cash sources

\$181,076 \$54,904

Uses of cash:

Purchase of investments, net of proceeds

\$(36,268) \$(83,232)

Purchase of treasury stock

(127,780) (50,864)

Other

(8,232) (16,005)

Total cash uses

\$(172,280) \$(150,101)

Net increase (decrease) in cash \$

8,796

\$

(97,197

)

Our primary sources of cash are from premiums, professional fees, and income received on investments. Cash is used primarily for claim and benefit payments and operating expenses. We manage our cash, investments and capital structure so we are able to meet the short- and long-term obligations of our business while maintaining financial flexibility and liquidity. We forecast, analyze and monitor our cash flows to enable prudent investment management and financing within the confines of our investment policies.

Cash flows from operating activities increased to \$140.1 million from \$41.6 during 2005. We received seven months of payments from CMS in the first six months of 2006, as the July CMS payments were received at the end of June. We received five months of payments from CMS in the first six months of 2005, as the January CMS payments were

received at the end of December 2004. This difference in timing of CMS payments resulted in an increase in cash flows of \$121.5 million. The increase was partially offset by operating cash flow used for the PDP. When adjusted for the timing differences noted above, we had negative cash flow of \$25.0 million related to the PDP. The negative cash flow is primarily due to CMS reconciliation issues and insufficient funding from CMS for our reimbursable low-income subsidy costs. We expect this trend to continue negatively impacting our operating cash flow for the remainder of the year. These costs will be fully reimbursed after CMS performs their year-end reconciliation.

Net cash used for investing activities during 2006 included capital expenditures associated with the continued implementation of new computer systems, leasehold improvements on facilities, furniture and equipment and other capital purchases to support our growth. The net cash change in investments for the period was an increase in investments, as operating cash was used to purchase investments.

#### Sierra Debentures

In March 2003, we issued \$115.0 million aggregate principal amount of 2¼% senior convertible debentures due March 15, 2023. The debentures pay interest, which is due semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 of each year. Each \$1,000 principal amount of debentures is convertible, at the option of the holders, into 109.3494 shares of our common stock before March 15, 2023 if (i) the market price of our common stock for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the preceding fiscal quarter exceeds 120% of the conversion price per share of our common stock; (ii) the debentures are called for redemption; (iii) there is an event of default with respect to the debentures; or (iv) specified corporate transactions have occurred. Beginning December 2003 and for each subsequent period, the market price of our common stock has exceeded 120% of the conversion price for at least 20 trading days in a period of 30 consecutive trading days. The conversion

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rate is subject to certain adjustments. This conversion rate represents a conversion price of \$9.145 per share. Holders of the debentures may require us to repurchase all or a portion of their debentures on March 15 in 2008, 2013 and 2018 or upon certain corporate events including a change in control. In either case, we may choose to pay the purchase price of such debentures in cash or common stock or a combination of cash and common stock. We can redeem the debentures for cash beginning on or after March 20, 2008.

During 2005, we received offers and entered into five separate privately negotiated transactions with debenture holders (holders) pursuant to which the holders converted an aggregate of \$63.0 million of debentures they owned into approximately 6.9 million shares of our common stock in accordance with the indenture governing the debentures. During the first quarter of 2006, a holder converted \$500,000 in debentures for approximately 54,000 shares of common stock.

### Revolving Credit Facility

On March 3, 2003, we entered into a revolving credit facility. Effective June 26, 2006, this facility was amended to extend the maturity from December 31, 2009 to June 26, 2011, increase the availability from \$140.0 million to \$250.0 million and reduce the drawn and undrawn fees. The current incremental borrowing rate is LIBOR plus 0.60%. The facility is available for general corporate purposes and at June 30, 2006, we had \$20.0 million drawn on this facility.

The credit facility is secured by guarantees by certain of our subsidiaries and a first priority security interest in: (i) all of the capital stock of each of our unregulated, material domestic subsidiaries (direct or indirect) as well as all of the capital stock of certain regulated, material domestic subsidiaries; and (ii) all other present and future assets and properties of ours and those of our subsidiaries that guarantee our credit agreement obligations (including, without limitation, accounts receivable, inventory, certain real property, equipment, contracts, trademarks, copyrights, patents, license rights and general intangibles) subject, in each case, to the exclusion of the capital stock of CII and certain other exclusions.

The revolving credit facility's covenants limit our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries to dispose of assets, incur indebtedness, incur other liens, make investments, loans or advances, make acquisitions, engage in mergers or consolidations, make capital expenditures and otherwise restrict certain corporate activities. Our ability to pay dividends, repurchase our common stock and prepay other debt is unlimited provided that we can still exceed a certain required leverage ratio after such transaction or any borrowing incurred as a result of such transaction. In addition, we are required to comply with specified financial ratios as set forth in the credit agreement. We believe that we are in compliance with all covenants of the credit agreement.

### Sierra Share Repurchases

From January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006, we purchased 3.1 million shares of our common stock, in the open market or through negotiated transactions, for \$127.8 million at an average cost per share of \$40.91. Since the repurchase program began in early 2003 and through June 30, 2006, we purchased, in the open market or through negotiated transactions, 25.2 million shares for \$515.5 million at an average cost per share of \$20.45.

On both February 16, 2006 and April 20, 2006, our Board of Directors authorized us to purchase an additional \$75.0 million, for a total of \$150.0 million in share repurchases. At July 25, 2006, \$64.4 million was available under the Board of Directors' authorized plan. The repurchase program has no stated expiration date.

### Statutory Capital and Deposit Requirements

Our HMO and insurance subsidiaries are required by state regulatory agencies to maintain certain deposits and must also meet certain net worth and reserve requirements. The HMO and insurance subsidiaries had restricted assets on deposit in various states totaling \$17.5 million at June 30, 2006. The HMO and insurance subsidiaries must also meet requirements to maintain minimum stockholders' equity, on a statutory basis, as well as minimum risk-based capital requirements, which are determined annually. In conjunction with the exit from the Texas HMO health care market, the Texas Department of Insurance approved a plan of withdrawal and Texas Health Choice, L.C., is now

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required to maintain deposits of \$1.5 million and net worth of at least \$3.5 million. We believe we are in material compliance with our regulatory requirements.

Of the \$96.9 million in cash and cash equivalents held at June 30, 2006, \$82.8 million was designated for use only by the regulated subsidiaries. Amounts are available for transfer to the parent company from the HMO and insurance subsidiaries only to the extent that they can be remitted in accordance with the terms of existing management agreements and by dividends. The parent company will not receive dividends from its regulated subsidiaries if such dividend payment would cause violation of statutory net worth and reserve requirements.

## Obligations and Commitments

We believe that funds from future operating cash flows, cash and investments and funds available under our credit agreement will be sufficient for future operations and commitments and for capital acquisitions and other strategic transactions.

For additional information regarding our estimated contractual obligations and commitments at December 31, 2005, see "Contractual Obligations, Commitments and Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements" included in the "Liquidity and Capital Resources" section of our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 21, 2006.

## Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In July 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued FASB Interpretation No. 48, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes - an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109" (FIN 48). FIN 48 clarifies the accounting for uncertainty in income taxes recognized in an enterprise's financial statements in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, "Accounting for Income Taxes". FIN 48 prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. FIN 48 also provides guidance on derecognition, classification, interest and penalties, accounting in interim periods, disclosure, and transition. FIN 48 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2006. We are currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of FIN 48 will have on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

## Ratings

Financial strength ratings are the opinion of the rating agencies and the significance of individual ratings varies from agency to agency. Companies with higher ratings generally, in the opinion of the rating agency, have the strongest capacity for repayment of debt or payment of claims, while companies at the bottom end of the range have the weakest capacity. Rating agencies continually review the financial performance and condition of insurers. The current financial strength ratings of our HMO and health and life insurance subsidiaries and senior convertible debentures are as follows:

A.M. Best Company, Inc. <sup>(2)</sup>		Fitch Ratings <sup>(1)</sup>		Standard & Poor's Corp. <sup>(2)</sup>	
Rating	Ranking	Rating	Ranking	Rating	Ranking
Financial strength rating:					
	5th of 16	A- Strong	7th of 23	n/a	n/a

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HMO and health and life insurance subsidiaries	B++ Very Good					
Issuer credit ratings:						
HMO and health and life insurance subsidiaries	bbb+ Very Good	8th of 22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Parent company	bb+ Speculative	11th of 22	BBB Good	9th of 23	n/a	n/a
Counterparty credit rating	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	BB+ Speculative	11th of 22
Senior convertible debentures	bb+ Speculative	11th of 22	BBB- Investment Grade	10th of 23	BB+ Speculative	11th of 22

(1) Rating outlook is stable. (2) Rating outlook is positive.

The financial strength ratings reflect the opinion of each rating agency on our operating performance and ability to meet obligations to policyholders and debenture holders, and are not evaluations directed toward the protection of

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investors in our common stock or senior convertible debentures.

### Other

We expect to spend \$30 to \$35 million in capital expenditures in 2006, which is less than the limit under our revolving credit facility. These amounts include approximately \$5 million in funds that we expect to spend on a joint venture to construct a sub-acute care facility that we are planning. We believe that our existing working capital, operating cash flow and amounts available under our credit facility should be sufficient to fund our capital expenditures and liquidity needs on a short- and long-term basis. Additionally, subject to unanticipated cash requirements, we believe that our existing working capital and operating cash flow should enable us to meet our liquidity needs on a long-term basis.

### Inflation

Health care costs continue to rise at a rate faster than the Consumer Price Index. We use various strategies to mitigate the negative effects of health care cost inflation, including setting commercial premiums based on our anticipated health care costs, risk-sharing arrangements with our various health care providers and other health care cost containment measures including member co-payments. There can be no assurance, however, that in the future, our ability to manage medical costs will not be negatively impacted by items such as technological advances, competitive pressures, applicable regulations, increases in pharmacy costs, utilization changes and catastrophic items, which could, in turn, result in medical cost increases equaling or exceeding premium increases.

### Government Regulation

Our business, offering health care coverage, health care management services and, to a lesser extent, the delivery of medical services, is heavily regulated at both the federal and state levels.

Government regulation of health care coverage products and services is a dynamic area of law that varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Amendments to existing laws and regulations are continually being considered and interpretation of the existing laws and rules changes from time to time. Regulatory agencies generally exercise broad discretion in interpreting laws and promulgating regulations to enforce their interpretations.

While we are unable to predict what legislative or regulatory changes may occur or the impact of any particular change, our operations and financial results could be negatively affected by any legislative or regulatory requirements. For example, any proposals to eliminate or reduce the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), which regulates insured and self-insured health care coverage plans offered by employers, to eliminate or reduce the pre-emption of state laws that would increase litigation exposure, affect underwriting practices, limit rate increases, require new or additional benefits or affect contracting arrangements (including proposals to require HMOs and PPOs to accept any health care provider willing to abide by an HMO's or PPO's contract terms or commission arrangements) may have a material adverse effect on our business. The continued consideration and enactment of "anti-managed care" laws and regulations by federal and state bodies may make it more difficult for us to manage medical costs and may adversely affect financial results.

In addition to changes in existing laws and regulations, we are subject to audits, investigations and enforcement actions. These include, but are not limited to, possible government actions relating to ERISA, the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan, our former military health care operations contract with TRICARE, federal and state fraud and abuse laws and laws relating to utilization management and the delivery and payment of health care. In addition, our Medicare business is subject to Medicare regulations promulgated by CMS. Violation of government laws and regulations may result in an assessment of damages, civil or criminal fines or penalties, or other sanctions, including exclusion from participation in government programs. In addition, disclosure of any adverse investigation or audit

results or sanctions could negatively affect our reputation in various markets and make it more difficult for us to sell our products and services.

In addition to the items described above, we urge you to review carefully the section "Risk Factors" in Part 1, Item 1A of our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K for a more complete discussion of the risks associated with an

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investment in our securities. See "Note on Forward-Looking Statements and Risk Factors" in Part 1, Item 1 of our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

We prepared our consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In preparing these financial statements, we are required to make judgments, assumptions and estimates, which we believe are reasonable and prudent based on the available facts and circumstances. These judgments, assumptions and estimates affect certain of our revenues and expenses and their related balance sheet accounts and disclosure of our contingent assets and liabilities. We base our assumptions and estimates primarily on historical experience and trends and factor in known and projected trends. On an on-going basis, we re-evaluate our selection of assumptions and the method of calculating our estimates. Actual results, however, may materially differ from our calculated estimates and this difference would be reported in our current operations. Our critical accounting policies and estimates have been reviewed by the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors.

For a more detailed description of all our critical accounting policies and estimates, see Part II, Item 7 of our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K. As of June 30, 2006, our critical accounting policies have not changed from those described on our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K. For a more extensive discussion of our accounting policies, see Note 2, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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### Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

At June 30, 2006, we had unrealized holding losses on available for sale investments of \$3.9 million, net of tax, compared to unrealized holding losses of \$1.8 million, net of tax, at December 31, 2005. We believe that changes in market interest rates, resulting in unrealized holding gains or losses, should not have a material impact on future earnings or cash flows, as it is unlikely that we would need or choose to substantially liquidate our investment portfolio.

At June 30, 2006, we had outstanding \$51.5 million in aggregate principal amount of our 2¼% senior convertible debentures due March 15, 2023. The debentures are fixed rate, and therefore, the interest expense on the debentures will not be impacted by future interest rate fluctuations. The borrowing rate on our revolving credit facility is currently LIBOR plus 0.60%. At June 30, 2006, we had \$20.0 million outstanding on this facility.

At June 30, 2006, we had approximately \$89.3 million invested in trust deed mortgage notes and real estate joint ventures. Trust deed mortgage notes and real estate joint ventures are classified and accounted for as other investments. Our investments in trust deed mortgage notes are with numerous independent borrowers and are secured by real estate in several states. All of our trust deed mortgage notes require interest only payments with a balloon payment of the principal at maturity. Loan to value ratios for these investments are typically based on appraisals obtained at the time of loan origination and may not reflect subsequent changes in value estimates. As a result, there may be less security than anticipated at the time the loan was originally made. If the values of the underlying assets decrease and default occurs, we may not recover the full amount of the loan or any interest due. Our investments in real estate joint ventures consist of three independent projects and are secured by real estate in California, Nevada, and Utah. We have made assessments as to the value and recoverability of our investments in our trust deed mortgage notes and real estate joint ventures. We believe our investments in trust deed mortgage notes and real estate joint ventures are properly stated at June 30, 2006.

### Item 4. Controls and Procedures

#### Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company's management, with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report were designed and were functioning effectively to provide reasonable assurance that the information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. The Company believes that a system of controls, no matter how well designed and operated, cannot provide absolute assurance that the objectives of the controls are met, and no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within a company have been detected. Management is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of such controls and procedures.

#### Change in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

No change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting occurred during the Company's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.



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Part II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Although we have not been sued, we were identified in discovery submissions in pending class action litigation against major managed care companies, as having allegedly participated in an unlawful conspiracy to improperly deny, diminish or delay payments to physicians. In Re: Managed Care Litigation, MDL No. 1334 (S.D.Fl.).

Beginning in 1999, a series of class action lawsuits were filed against many major firms in the health benefits business alleging an unlawful conspiracy to deny, diminish or delay payments to physicians. We have not been named as a defendant in these lawsuits. A multi-district litigation panel has consolidated some of these cases in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division. In the lead case, known as *Shane*, the amended complaint alleges multiple violations under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). The suit seeks injunctive, compensatory and equitable relief as well as restitution, costs, fees and interest payments. On April 7, 2003, the United States Supreme Court determined that certain claims against certain defendants should be arbitrated.

Subsequent lower court rulings have further resolved which of the plaintiffs' claims are subject to arbitration. In 2004, the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit upheld a district court ruling certifying a plaintiff class in the *Shane* case. In February 2005, the district court determined to bifurcate the case, holding a trial phase limited to liability issues, and a second, if necessary, regarding damages.

Aetna, Inc., CIGNA Corporation, the Prudential Insurance Company of America, Wellpoint Inc., Health Net Inc. and Humana Inc. have entered into settlement agreements which have been approved by the district court. On January 31, 2006, the trial court granted summary judgment on all claims to defendant PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc. (PacifiCare), finding that plaintiffs had failed to provide documents or other evidence showing that PacifiCare agreed to participate in the alleged conspiracy. On June 19, 2006, the trial court granted summary judgment on all remaining claims against the two remaining defendants, United Health Group, Inc. and Coventry Health Care, Inc., because the plaintiffs had not submitted evidence that would allow a jury to find reasonably that either had been part of a conspiracy to underpay doctors or that either had aided or abetted alleged RICO violations. Plaintiffs have not announced whether they intend to appeal. Plaintiffs in the *Shane* proceeding had stated their intention to introduce evidence at trial concerning Sierra and other parties not named as defendants in the litigation.

We are subject to other various claims and litigation in the ordinary course of business. Such litigation includes, but is not limited to, claims of medical malpractice, claims for coverage or payment for medical services rendered to HMO and other members and claims by providers for payment for medical services rendered to HMO and other members. Some litigation may also include claims for punitive damages that are not covered by insurance. These actions are in various stages of litigation and some may ultimately be brought to trial.

For all existing litigation and legal matters, we accrued amounts we believe to be appropriate, based on information presently available, for claims that are considered probable and for which the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. With respect to certain pending actions, we maintain commercial insurance coverage with varying deductibles for which we maintain estimated reserves for our self-insured portion based upon our current assessment of such litigation. Due to recent unfavorable changes in the commercial insurance market, we have, for certain risks, purchased coverage with higher deductibles and lower limits of coverage. In the opinion of management, based on information presently available, the amount or range of any potential loss for certain claims and litigation cannot be reasonably estimated or is not considered probable. However, the ultimate resolutions of these pending legal proceedings are not expected to have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.



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## Item 1A. Risk Factors

As of June 30, 2006, our risk factors have not changed from those described in our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K. For a detailed discussion of the risks associated with an investment in our securities, see "Risk Factors" in Part 1, Item 1A of our 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

## Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

(c)

Below, is a summary of stock repurchases for the six months ended June 30, 2006. See Note 5, Share Repurchases, of our Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding our stock repurchase plan.

Period	Total Number Of Shares Repurchased (1)	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number Of Shares Purchased As Part Of Publicly Announced Plan Or Program	Approximate Dollar Value Of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under The Plan (2)
<i>(In thousands, except per share data)</i>				
Beginning approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased				\$42,125
January 1, 2006 - January 31, 2006	70	\$39.30	70	39,392
February 1, 2006 - February 28, 2006	1,010	40.35	1,010	73,675
March 1, 2006 - March 31, 2006	1,121	42.49	1,121	26,056
April 1, 2006 - April 30, 2006	633	39.97	633	75,764
May 1, 2006 - May 31, 2006	290	39.15	290	64,427
June 1, 2006 - June 30, 2006				64,427

(1) Certain repurchases were made pursuant to a 10b5-1 plan.

(2) At January 1, 2006, \$42.1 million remained available for purchase under previously approved plans. On February 16, 2006, our Board of Directors authorized \$75.0 million in share repurchases. On April 20, 2006, our Board of Directors authorized an additional \$75.0 million in share repurchases. The repurchase program has no stated expiration date.

(d) Below, is a summary of 2¼% senior convertible debenture conversions for the three months ended March 31, 2006. See Note 3 of our Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for information regarding our senior convertible debentures.

Period	Total Dollar Value Of Debentures Converted	Average Price Paid Per Debenture	Total Dollar Value Of Debentures Purchased As Part Of Publicly Announced Plan Or Program	Approximate Dollar Value Of Debentures That May Yet Be Purchased Under The Plan
January 1, 2006 - January 31, 2006	\$500,000	109.35 shares of common stock for each \$1,000	none	none

principal amount of  
debentures

February 1, 2006 - February 28, 2006

March 1, 2006 - March 31, 2006

April 1, 2006 - April 30, 2006

May 1, 2006 - May 31, 2006

June 1, 2006 - June 30, 2006

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Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None

Item 4. Submission Of Matters To A Vote Of Security Holders

Sierra held its annual meeting of stockholders on May 24, 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The following persons were reelected directors for two-year terms ending in 2008 based on the voting results below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Withheld</u>
-------------	------------	-----------------

The following persons' terms as directors continued after the meeting and end in 2007.

<u>Name</u>
Thomas Y. Hartley
Michael E. Luce
Anthony M. Marlon, M.D.
Anthony L. Watson

The stockholders approved the Amended and Restated Sierra Health Services, Inc. 1995 Non-Employee Directors' Stock Plan based on the voting results below:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	Broker <u>Non-votes</u>
42,800,426	6,468,048	47,421	0

The stockholders ratified the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent auditors for the year ending December 31, 2006. The voting results were as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	Broker <u>Non-votes</u>
53,146,257	37,536	16,481	0

Item 5. Other Information

None

Item 6. Exhibits

- (10.1) Fifth Amendment to the Credit Agreement dated as of March 3, 2003, among Sierra Health Services, Inc. as Borrower, and lenders including, among others, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent and US Bank, N.A. and Calyon New York Branch as syndication agents. Documentation agents include The Bank of New York, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Harris, N.A. and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Banc of America Securities LLC is serving as the sole lead arranger and book manager under this amended credit facility.
- (31.1) Rule 13a - 14(a) or 15d - 14(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer.
- (31.2) Rule 13a - 14(a) or 15d - 14(a) Certification of Chief Financial Officer.
- (32.1) Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Principal Executive Officer.
- (32.2)

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Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 of Principal Financial Officer.

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Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereto duly authorized.

SIERRA HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

Registrant

By: /s/ MARC R. BRIGGS

Marc R. Briggs

Vice President of Finance,

Chief Accounting Officer

Date: July 26, 2006