

Healthcare Coverage Reform Initiative

Second Labor Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 16, 2007

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Lobby Conference Room

Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI)

2100 Stella Court, Columbus, OH 43215

Attendees:

John Callender, Chris Farrand, Chris Collins, Marianne Steger, Carol Bowshier, Sarah Smith, Doug Anderson, Malika Bartlett, Kevin Tyler, Marjorie Ellis, Suparna Bhaskaran.

1. Doug Anderson from the Ohio Department of Insurance welcomed the participants. He emphasized that the purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of the last 2-3 months of developments in regards to the Health Care Coverage Initiative. Additionally, he mentioned, that he welcomed feedback from the audience and said their concerns would be considered. He also added that some members of the Advisory Committee were present in the audience. Doug also had everyone in the room introduce them selves.
2. Doug then proceeded with a power point presentation, which is available at www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov. He also encouraged questions and comments anytime during this presentation.
3. During the course of the meeting, the following issues were raised:
 - a. A participant asked if a person leaves the employment of a small employer, they get only 6 months of COBRA. Doug explained that Federal COBRA laws, which provide for 12 to 18 months of continuation coverage, only apply to businesses with more than 20 employees. Employers with less than 20 employees that offer an insured product are subject to the state COBRA law, which only allows for 6 months of coverage. A person must also be eligible for unemployment benefits in order to get State COBRA, in comparison to the Federal COBRA law, which applies to anyone leaving employment.
 - b. A participant asked about whether a single-payer health insurance was being modeled. The answer is no.
 - c. A participant asked about the timeline. Doug explained that by early January the actuary will have developed models loaded with Ohio information and will evaluate the different reform scenarios. The SCI Team and Advisory Committee will review and provide recommendations to the Governor. The goal is to provide the Governor with recommendations at the beginning of 2008. Legislation will follow.
4. Meeting Adjourned