

## Healthcare Coverage Reform Initiative

### Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 20, 2007

2:30 p.m.

Lazarus Government Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room C621A&B  
50 West Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Attendees: Steve Millard, Fred McGraw, Jerry Friedman, Cynthia Burnell, Nick Lashutka, Amy Goldstein, Trisha Hershey, Melissa Bauer, Shawn Frick, Kelly McGivern, Linda Woggon, Shannon Ginther, Sandra Solano-McGuire, Teresa Long, Cristal Thomas, Deborah Miller, William Fitzgibbon, Janet Grant, Kenneth Statz, Julie DiRossi, J. Neeley, Kathleen Gmeiner, Bill Harper, Cheryl Boyce, Heath MacAlpine, Col Owens, Jessica Hart, Cathy Levine, Chris Whistler, Brent Mulgrew, Brian Keaton, George Dunigan, Jessie Cannon, Melissa Craddock, Ted Fisher, Jeff Biehl, John Burant, Jim Castle, Ty Pine, Mel Borkan, Toya Johnson, Dwight Tillery, Amy Rohling McGee, Janetta King, Doug Anderson, Robin Harris, Majorie Ellis, Malika Bartlett, Carly Glick, Bill Hayes, Mary Jo Hudson, Senator Tom Niehaus, Representative Jim Raussen, Senator Shirley Smith, Marianne Steger, Richard Stoff, Janet Grant.

1. Introduction and welcome by Doug Anderson from the Ohio Department of Insurance.
2. Message from the Governor's office by Janetta King. Janetta provided an overview of Governor Strickland's vision for a healthy Ohio and goals related to healthcare coverage reform. Janetta explained that the Advisory Committee is to provide advice and recommendations for the Governor's goal of providing affordable health insurance coverage to all Ohioans with an initial goal of covering an additional 500,000 uninsured Ohioans by 2011. The Governor also has a goal of making coverage more affordable for small businesses so they can provide coverage to their workers.
3. Amy Rohling McGee presented goals, expectations and priorities. The goal of the Advisory Committee is to reach agreement on the facts of Ohio's current situation and to make recommendations on how to provide affordable coverage to all Ohioans with an initial goal of covering 500,000 more Ohioans by 2011. The Advisory Committee will identify the important issues that must be decided to cover the uninsured, evaluate proposed reforms to cover the uninsured, and make recommendations to the SCI team.

Amy stated that the Advisory Committee will make decisions and recommendations on a consensus basis whenever possible, and that members' objections would be noted. Consensus means that a member has no paramount objection to a proposal. A paramount objection is one where the member cannot

support a decision under any circumstance. Members are expected to raise paramount objections, and should not later challenge a decision where no such objection is made. Where consensus cannot be reached, recommendations will be fully discussed, and objections will be noted.

Bill Hayes then presented to the Advisory Committee the list of priority issues developed by the SCI team. The list contains the major issues identified by the SCI team related to the goal of covering the Ohio's uninsured residents. Bill explained how the list was compiled and the method used to prioritize the list. For each issue, members of the SCI team assigned a high, medium or low priority, and the members' priorities were compiled to arrive at the priorities list

Members of the advisory committee identified additional issues they thought should be added to the list. Amy Rohling McGee led a discussion on whether the list was complete and whether the issues were prioritized correctly. Amy recorded the additional issues identified by the advisory committee.

John Burant explained that it was the understanding of the SCI team that the priorities reflected the issues that should be discussed and addressed first by the SCI team, not what was the most important issue to the members. Doug Anderson explained that the intended use of the priorities list was to establish a work plan for the SCI team and the advisory group, with the issues ranked highest being the most important to address early in the process. Other issues are important too, but may be addressed later in the process.

It was agreed that the additional issues suggested by the advisory group would be added to the priority list, and that members of the advisory committee would be given the opportunity to give a high, medium or low priority ranking to each issue. Advisory committee rankings would be sent to Marjorie Ellis who would compile them, and the new rankings would be announced at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

4. Doug Anderson explained some of the activities and outreach. Ohio was the recipient of an SCI grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation designed to provide select states with technical assistance in their efforts to reform healthcare. The Ohio SCI team includes a bipartisan mix of twelve individuals, including members from the legislature, the administration, the business community, the advocacy community, and the public policy arena. The team will attend a three-day meeting in Chicago with national experts get their guidance in helping Ohio achieve its goal of covering 500,000 Ohioans by 2011.

The SCI team is in the process of developing a fact pack, which is being prepared by the Business Round Table and the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. The fact pack identifies the demographics of the uninsured in Ohio and will be distributed to the entire Advisory Committee before the next meeting. This information will

be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting as part of the process to begin to understand what issues Ohio faces in terms of the uninsured.

Doug Anderson discussed the \$500,000 budget allocated by the legislature to hire an actuarial consultant to evaluate and analyze up to five different proposals for health coverage reform. The Governor supports the idea of a connector with subsidies for those individuals who cannot currently afford insurance, and that will be one of the proposals to be modeled.

A Benefits Team is being created that will look at what elements of coverage should be included in a health coverage plan. This team will meet with benefit plans (public and private) around the state to find innovative plans and to obtain information on care management and healthy lifestyles. A report from this team will be submitted to the SCI team and the Advisory Committee. Senator Niehaus asked if the Benefits Team will have information about effectiveness and Doug said that the team would collect that information. Nick Lashutka said that businesses have collected data to understand the impact of wellness programs on their employees.

Cindy Burnell of the Department of Health gave an overview of Healthy Ohio.

Cristal Thomas, Director of Medicaid, gave an overview of recent Medicaid reforms.

Representative Jim Raussen, Chairman of the House Healthcare Access & Affordability, spoke about the hearings that Committee has held around the state. Representative Raussen said that we have a unique opportunity to reform health coverage in Ohio and that it is good to be on a parallel track with the Governor.

Bill Hayes said that the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) has been working with new legislators on helping them understand health care issues. HPIO will do a series of discussions beginning in early 2008 on healthcare coverage reforms.

Richard Stoff gave an overview of the Business Round Table's efforts to identify opportunities to reform Ohio's health care and coverage systems.

Brent Mulgrew said that the Ohio State Medical Association recently released its Prescription for Healthy Ohio Program, which contains a number of proposed reforms to improve Ohio's health care and coverage system. Information about the Prescription for a Health Ohio Program is available on the OSMA website.

Cathy Levine of UHCAN Ohio said that her organization submitted a proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a grant to build united consumer voices in Ohio.

The meeting then adjourned.