

Healthcare Coverage Reform Initiative

Minutes of the Initial Stakeholder Meeting For Providers

August 16, 2007

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Riffe Center, Room 1960

Attendees: Shawn Frick, Randy Runyon, Laura Tiberi, Lisa Rankin, Donna Boswell, Jim Ruvolo, Ralph Faulkner, Jennifer Link, Carole J. Rogers, Chris Whistler, Carolyn Towner, Ann Spicer, Hubert Wirtz, Robin Bachman, Brian L. Bachelder, Ernest Boyd, Elayne Biddlestone, Ted Fisher, George Dunigan, Amy Goldstein, Randall Garland, Mary Jo Hudson, Doug Anderson, Cristal Thomas, Malika Bartlett, Kevin Tyler, Sarah Curtin, Carly Glick

1. Welcome and introduction by Mary Jo Hudson.
2. Doug Anderson presented the current state of affairs of insurance in Ohio.
3. Cristal Thomas explained the vision and goals of Governor Strickland's Turn Around Ohio plan with regard to the health of Ohioans and covering the uninsured.
4. Doug Anderson discussed the process for developing reforms including information about the stakeholder groups, advisory group, S.C.I. team and actuarial study.
5. During the program there were opportunities for questions and answers, and the following issues were raised.

Regulation of Self-Insured

- Tim Maglione of the Ohio State Medical Association indicated that ODI can replicate the administrative side of the self-insured plans (i.e. prompt pay).

Reimbursement

- One provider in the group suggested that cost shifting does not work because even if providers increase the price of services insurers will not necessarily pay for the increase.

Funding Healthcare Reform

- Tim Maglione of the Ohio State Medical Association indicated that providing health coverage for the uninsured should be broadly funded statewide. He stated that other states were considering taxing providers and that OSMA was opposed to this policy. Policies should look at the

long-term outcomes beyond the biennial budget cycle. The return on investment for improving health outcomes through systemic health reforms will go beyond the state budget cycle. He suggested that policy makers consider taxation of behaviors that contribute to chronic illness such as taxation on fast food but that OSMA has not analyzed the impact of this type of tax. OSMA has guiding principles for reform and a way to score potential reform plans as they are released against these principles.

- Group members asked if Ohio will apply for a 1115(b) waiver to help fund health reform. Cristal Thomas said that Ohio is considering it but that it may not be the best way to cover the uninsured.

Behavioral Healthcare

- Mental health providers wanted reforms to build in early access to behavioral healthcare.
- Mental health providers in the group mentioned the decrease in behavioral health expenditures from private insurance companies, which shifts the cost to the public behavioral health system. They wanted policy makers to consider the cost of lost productivity due to mental health problems.

Prescription Costs

- A few members of the group urged policy makers to look at Asheville, North Carolina and their approach to chronic disease management. Ernie Boyd from the Ohio Pharmacy Association said Asheville, N.C., increased expenditures on prescriptions, which costs more in the short run but will cost less in the long run because chronic diseases were better managed.

Participation and Communication

- Robin Bachman stated that she felt that the faith community should be involved with the policy making process from the beginning.
- Participants asked how stakeholders and policy makers were going to communicate and share information. Doug said that a website will be created which will include information and updates and that there will be additional meetings with stakeholder in groups and individually as needed. Stakeholder meeting minutes and Advisory Group minutes will be on the website. He reiterated that the decision making process is transparent and participatory.
- Some participants asked how the Health Policy Institute of Ohio's modeling will be used. Mary Jo Hudson stated that ODI is working with HPIO. ODI is modeling a connector and other want to look at reinsurance. ODI is committed to working closely with those doing studies and modeling so as not to reinvent the wheel. The governor and all administrative agencies are working toward a comprehensive analysis to create a comprehensive set of recommendations instead of a piecemeal approach. Mary Jo expressed her appreciation of stakeholders input in this area.