

Healthcare Coverage Reform Initiative

Minutes of the Initial Stakeholder Meeting For Business

August 24, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Ohio Department of Insurance, Conference Room

Attendees: William Fizgibbon, Pat Grischow, Adam Dowell, Mike Stull, Time Teynor, Mari-Jean Siehl, Denny Larr, Mary Beth Arensberg, Linda Woggon, Kevin Schmidt, Joe Bauer, Nick Lashutka, Richard Stoff, Amy Rolling Mcgee, Mary Jo Hudson, Doug Anderson, Cristal Thomas, Malika Bartlett, Sarah Curtin

1. Welcome and introduction by Amy Rolling Mcgee.
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, SCI team and actuarial study.
5. During the program there were opportunities for questions and answers, and the following issues were raised:

Small Business Alliance Bargaining

- A participant asked Doug to explain how small business alliance bargaining works. Doug stated that small business rating rules apply to both businesses in the alliance and outside the alliance in terms of rates. Thus, rates were the same for those businesses that participate in small business alliances however there are administrative savings because small employers can rely upon their alliance to find quality plans that members can trust.

Council of Governments (COGs)

- A participant asked how COGs work with regard to purchasing alliances? Doug explained that COGs allow local governments to get together and buy health benefits collectively. They may purchase insurance or self-insure. Small group insurance laws don't apply to COGs.

Ohio's Insurance Laws

- A participant asked if ODI has documents that outline how Ohio's laws are more restrictive than federal law. Doug explained that the way in which Ohio is more conservative is that it has ratings.

Modeling of Healthcare Reforms

- A participant asked if the actuarial study will show how various health reforms will impact different segments of the market. Doug responded by saying that the Ohio Department of Insurance is working with the Business Round Table and Health Policy Institute of Ohio to gather their data and recommendations. The reform initiative is leveraging expertise and resources to achieve the goal of covering 500,000 individuals.

Policy Recommendations

- A participant asked if previous policy recommendations made by stakeholders would be taken into consideration. Doug said that while the team may be aware of some previous suggestions, he would ask that stakeholders come forward again because they may have new ideas.

Approaches to Systemic Change

- Richard Stoff applauds the Governor's efforts to reform the healthcare system. He said that intervening on one part of the system will impact other parts of the system. For example, he said that increasing rates of insurance have cost and quality implications. He wanted to know how the Governor is going to prevent a linear approach to a complex systemic problem. Cristal Thomas said that the Governor's approach is not linear but parallel approach. Amy Rohling McGee reiterated that the Governor's approach and vision is a comprehensive approach to systemic problems.

Cost

- One participant asked if there is going to be cost comparisons of private and public sectors. Doug said that that data exists online at the Kaiser Foundation.
- One participant asked how healthcare benefits and costs are going to be shared equally. Mary Jo said that the Governor is looking at this issue carefully and would like to receive any recommendations and priorities that will impact this issue. Carly Glick is the contact with whom stakeholders can share this information and her card is on the table. Carly's phone number is 614-719-1524 and her email address is Carly.Glick@ins.state.oh.us

Quality and Innovation

- One participant urged the team to look at the innovative approaches that small communities are doing. Mary Jo asked that stakeholders provide information about what regional efforts have been effective and help to facilitate contact with those entities.
- One participant asked if quality is going to be part of this phase of reform through expansion of coverage. Doug said that quality will be included in this phase of

reform because it is interrelated with cost. There will also be other separate policy initiatives within the Governor's plan that will target quality specifically. These initiatives may be spearheaded by other agencies such as the Ohio Department of Health etc.

Sharing Information

- Please pass Carly Glick's information on to others who might be interested in participating in this process. Carly's phone number is 614-719-1524 and her email address is Carly.Glick@ins.state.oh.us