

Healthcare Coverage Reform Initiative

Minutes of the Initial Stakeholder Meeting For Hospitals

August 27, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Ohio Department of Insurance, Conference Room

Attendees: Dan Helmick, Daphne Kackloud, Janet Goldberg, George Dunigan, Dr. Keith Watson, Katie Kuhns, Willa Ebersole, John Narcross, John Fishpaw, Kelly Leahy, Bridget Gargan, Greg Moody, Mary Haller, Dan Leite, Doug Anderson, Carly Glick, Amy Rohling McGee

1. Welcome and introduction by Amy Rohling McGee
2. Doug Anderson presented the current state of affairs of insurance in Ohio.
3. Amy Rohling McGee 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:

Citizenship

- A participant asked about the citizenship requirements for Medicaid eligibility. Mary Haller explained that last August the federal government passed the Deficit Reduction Act, which requires individuals applying for Medicaid to prove citizenship. Resident aliens have to provide documentation of their green card status using original documentation.

Employer-sponsored Insurance

- A participant asked if the health reform plan would include an employer-sponsored insurance mechanism. Doug Anderson said that the topic would be addressed throughout the planning process.

Long-Term Care

- A participant asked how long-term care fits with the health reform plan. Doug Anderson said that the vision statement for health care in Ohio includes Long-term care. There is a work group on long-term care budgeting that will look at coordinating state and federal funding.

Buy-in Medicaid Expansion

- As part of the state's budget, workers with disabilities can purchase Medicaid as primary or secondary insurance. This includes children who have chronic illness but are uninsurable.

The Governor's Health Vision Statement for Ohio

- Amy Rohling McGee stated that the vision statement focuses on access, prevention, quality, leveraging partnerships, and equality as goals but the specific strategies to achieve these goals are beginning to be discussed. The vision is the North Star for the health reform planning process.
- Doug Anderson explained the health reform process is designed to be open, inclusive, and transparent. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce stakeholders to goals and basic facts and to gather input. There will be a website with meetings, agendas, minutes and FAQs.

What is the Current Process for Health Reform?

- Doug Anderson explained there is a request for proposals that ODI has issued to do an actuarial and economic modeling of up to five health reform proposals. In addition the study will gather baseline data to help us understand the demographics of the uninsured. ODI is gathering input on proposals to be modeled. Bids from consultants are expected to be submitted by Friday September 7, 2007. ODI will look at the Massachusetts Connector and see how that works in Ohio. ODI recognizes that Ohio's insurance market and laws are different from Massachusetts and that any reforms must fit Ohio.
- Doug also explained that Ohio received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to participate in the State Coverage Institute. Twelve individuals from Ohio will participate in the Coverage Institute. There will be an SCI site visit from representatives from AcademyHealth on September 4th and a meeting in Chicago at the end of September. The Chicago meeting will be an opportunity to work with national experts who will help facilitate a process that will expand health coverage.
- There is also an Advisory Committee, which is a larger group that represents stakeholders statewide. The SCI team and the Advisory Committee will work together and work to develop a health reform plan that is right for Ohio. The work between the Advisory Committee and the SCI team is complimentary. Several Advisory Committee members are also on the SCI team.
- There is also a team from various agencies that will work with large employers to learn about what large employers are doing to increase quality and reduce costs. This benefits team will report back to the Advisory Committee with their findings.

Sharing Information

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