

Healthcare Coverage Reform Initiative

Minutes of the Initial Stakeholder Meeting For Labor Representatives

August 23, 2007

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Ohio Department of Insurance, Conference Room

Attendees: John Burant, Chris Collins, Katie Kuhns, Gretchen Williamson, Elise Geig, Robin Harris, Marianne Steger, Mary Jo Hudson, Doug Anderson, Cristal Thomas, Malika Bartlett, Sarah Curtin, Carly Glick

1. Welcome and introduction by Robin Harris.
2. Doug Anderson presented the current state of affairs of insurance in Ohio.
3. Robin Harris 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.

Rating Bands

Marianne Steger asked how rating bands are monitored. Doug said that ODI monitors company compliance with rating bands based on actuarial certifications that insurance companies file with the Department. Rating bands only apply to the small group market not to the individual or large group market.

The Governor's Expansion Goal

One participant asked how the Governor decided the number he wanted to expand coverage to (500,000 individuals). Doug said that 500,000 individuals is half of the uninsured who are not eligible for current programs.

Ohio's Insurance Laws

Marianne Steger stated that changing guaranteed issue and community rating laws in Ohio might be more acceptable than Medicaid expansion to the Republican controlled legislature. Robin Harris said that the Governor would be looking at the financial and political realities. She said that people are uninsured for different reasons and thus a variety of strategies will need to be considered to cover a variety of individuals.