

Arkansas Health Benefits Planning Exchange

Consumers Workgroup	June 28, 2011	Arkansas Studies Institute Rm. 204	12:00PM – 2:00PM
<i>Consumers</i>			
<p>Members Present: Curtis Bailey Robert Barnes Veronica Clark Herschel Cleveland Clair Hall for Elizabeth Small Kym Patterson Amy Rossi</p> <p>Staff: Cindy Crone Bruce Donaldson</p>	<p>Members Absent: Billy Altom Deborah Bell Elisabeth Burak Stephen Copley Marcilla Garcia Kanisha Halton Judy Lindsey Sharon Moone-Jochums Dr. Creshelle Nash Dr. Eddie Ochoa Joe Pelphrey Sean Pitman Joyce Solaire William Watson</p>		

Meeting Summary:

- I. New Open Meeting Rules were announced; public comment period will be available at end of meetings.
- II. SKYPE will be available for out-of-area meeting participants beginning next month.
- III. Updates
 - a. Report to Public Health Committee – there were concerns expressed about lack of adequate advertising for Community Meetings and questions about the meeting summaries that will be reported by the end of July. Commissioner Bradford notified the Committee he would be requesting an appropriation for continued Exchange Planning in the fall to be followed by seeking State authority for an Arkansas-run Exchange.
 - b. Community Meetings – handout of updated schedule was distributed. Suggestions for increased notice to communities included notices through AACF, ARC of Arkansas, and Heart, Lung, and Kidney Associations. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter is free. Need posters posted locally—a Student from Hendrix prepared posters for individual communities. It was also suggested that local Sheriff may need to be notified of meetings to assure they remain orderly.
 - c. First Data has begun Background Work.
 - i. Timeline for concurrent work over the summer – handout
 - ii. Project Manager – David Sodergren
 - iii. Key Informant Interviews will occur the weeks of July 4th & 11th
- IV. Vision Statement was approved by Steering Committee.
- V. Governance Survey Results have been prepared by First Data. Concern was expressed over the response rate (28%). For future surveys, it was suggested we mark email “urgent” or use some other descriptive statement to get more participation. Can we re-do survey? Cindy Crone suggested that the time is short for repeating survey and suggested that we briefly discuss next month after workgroup members have had time to review results. If Workgroup members believe the results are not reflective of their views, a “minority report” can be submitted.
- VI. Future Meeting Discussion Topics
 - a. July – Outreach & Education
 - b. August – Marketplace/Financial Models
 - c. September - Program - IT Integration
- VII. Discussion topic for today – What is the best strategy for obtaining State government authorization?
 - Need strong leadership. Governor has said he won’t do Executive Order. Since it would require a super-majority to get on calendar of fiscal session, what about special session at the end of fiscal session in 2012?
 - Need data to answer questions, like costs, needs.
 - Use Facebook/Twitter for outreach
 - Send a questionnaire to advocacy groups –to get input from consumers.
 - Outreach will include focusing on subgroups for Exchange, i.e. young population, Medicaid eligible, small employer group, uninsured/sick population. What is health literacy of our people? Is it changing?
 - Can/should we have an Exchange even if the ACA is repealed? Yes
 - An issue is that Medicaid and looming deficit overshadows the Exchange requirements.
 - What are the pluses & minuses of a Federal-run vs. an Arkansas-run Exchange? Can we influence a federally operated exchange?