

Arkansas Health Benefits Exchange Planning

Consumers Workgroup	October 25, 2011	Arkansas Studies Institute Rm. 124	2:00 PM – 4:00PM
<p>Members Present: Robert Barnes Julie Larson for Steve Copley Kym Patterson Clar Hall for Elizabeth Small</p> <p>Staff: Bruce Donaldson Craig Wilson, ACHI</p>		<p>Members Absent: Billy Altom Claire Bailey Curtis Bailey Deborah Bell Elisabeth Burak Veronica Clark Stephen Copley Marcella Garcia Kanisha Halton Kevin Harkey Sharon Moone-Jochums Joe Pelphrey Sean Pitman Amy Rossi Herb Sanderson Joyce Solaire</p>	

Meeting Summary:

- I. Bruce Donaldson-AID, opened the meeting. Workgroup members and guests introduced themselves.
- II. **The Consumer Workgroup meeting summary from September 20 was approved** as circulated without corrections and will be posted as “final” on the HBE website.
- III. Updates
 - A. Project Report/CCIIO Update-Bruce Donaldson provided a written report (handout). Bruce informed the workgroup members that the No Cost Extension was approved through January 29, 2011 and there was a legislative meeting held on September 26, 2011 discussing CCIIO Grantee and timeline issues. Bruce informed the workgroup that the final opportunity to request Level One funding is December 31, 2011 and the final opportunity for Level Two funding will be June 2012. Bruce informed the workgroup that the September Application was not submitted due to a letter from six Republican Representatives to the Governor recommending that the Exchange Planning Efforts stop. The Exchange Planning Staff is continuing to work towards the December Application for Level One Funding and the Insurance Commissioner has a meeting scheduled with the Governor for November 1, 2011 to discuss possible Partnership options. Bruce also gave the workgroup members a brief report on the Stakeholder Summit which was held on October 11, 2011. Bruce stated that 150 attended the Summit and that it was over-run by Republican Representatives that were rude and very unprofessional in some of comments made to the Commissioner. Bruce informed the workgroup members that Public Hearings are scheduled for November and December. There will be six meetings and 15 video conference sites across the state. The workgroup members will be informed of the exact dates and times as the information becomes available.

- B. Surgeon General's Summit-Craig Wilson reported that the Surgeon General will hold a Summit on November 7, 2011 at the Arkansas Children's Hospital Chairman's Ballroom. There is room for approximately 160 attendees. The Summit will be a two hour meeting held from 9:00am to 11:00am. Dr. Thompson will make a presentation regarding his vision on the Healthcare system. Ray Scott will discuss HIT efforts, Insurance Commissioner Jay Bradford will discuss the Health Benefit Exchange, John Selig will discuss Medicaid and Private Insurer efforts and Dr. Halverson will discuss Workforce Initiative. Steve Barnes will moderate a question session where Little Rock attendees will be given an opportunity to ask questions in writing and video conference viewers will be allowed to submit question via email. Steve will then present the questions to the panel for their responses. Craig informed the workgroup that any questions regarding the summit should be directed to Arkansas Centers for Health Improvement.

IV. New Business

A. New Federal Partnership Options (hand out)

Bruce asked the workgroup members to refer to their handout. Bruce gave a brief synopsis of the three Partnership options that are available. Bruce informed the workgroup that the Exchange Planning Staff is continuing to work toward the December funding application and that with a Partnership option; it would lay the ground work if there was a conversion to a State Exchange in the future. The Partnership options are as follows:

1. Plan Management-Would allow states to regulate market and qualify plans. The Feds would handle enrollment and eligibility.
2. Selected Consumer Assistance-Would allow the states to oversee the Navigator and Outreach/Education Programs. The Feds would operate the call center, website and correspondence.
3. Both-Would allow the states to manage both option one and two.

B. Other

1. Craig Wilson brought up that in regards to obtaining approval from the Governor to move forward with a Partnership Option, he feels there are two options that would give the Governor cover as it relates to policy and politics. Craig stated that the Governor can effectively convey that the Partnership option is a viable option for Arkansas. Appropriation would still require legislative approval. Another point that is that the Funding application does not require the State to declare whether it will have a State or Federal Exchange.
2. Craig mentioned that questions and comments related to the proposed regulations from CCIIO are due by the end of October. Craig stated that the comments are geared towards state flexibility and questions regarding the Partnership options.
3. Representative Hyde brought up the issue that Arkansas will lose the two and a half percent premium tax which is used to pay for volunteer firemen, police and firemen pensions and etc. if there is a Federal Partnership.

V. Future Exchange Planning Discussions

- A. Agenda Items for next meeting- At this point the workgroups are at a stand still until after the meeting with the Governor which is scheduled for November 1, 2011. After the meeting the Exchange Planning

Staff will have more insight into what the next steps are and will decide which topics need to be discussed during future meetings. Bruce stated that he will send an email to the workgroup members regarding the outcome of the November 1, 2011 meeting.

B. The next meeting will be held November 16, 2p to 4p at the Arkansas Studies Institute, Room 204.

VI. Public Comment

1. The commenter stated that we have a lot more people engaged on the issue than we previously had.