

Joint Select Committee on Health Reform Implementation Low-Income Coverage Advisory Group

July 30, 2010 Meeting Summary

Ground rules and governance decisions:

- The co-chairs will be Senator Keiser and Representative Pettigrew;
- Legislators and legislative staff will be at all meetings;
- There will be summaries of all meetings, but not official minutes;
- Meetings will be open to the public, with phone in capabilities for members of the advisory group; and
- The work of the group is to (1) inform the Joint Select Committee on policy decisions for the Legislature (with an initial emphasis on near-term decisions) and (2) identify executive branch decision points related to implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Initial interests expressed by Advisory Group:

- Preservation of the health system infrastructure that will be needed in 2014;
- Considering issues that the state manages better than the federal government;
- Preservation of existing state programs that may overlap with new federal initiatives;
- Impacts of the Medical Purchasing Authority (MPA) restructure on implementing PPACA;
- Determination of which funding opportunities will require legislative action;
- Teaching people to use the health system in a cost-effective manner; and
- Achieving fairness in payments for mental health services.

Committee staff overview:

Committee staff provided a brief overview of some of the issues affecting low-income programs in Washington State. These issues include:

- Ongoing efforts by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to obtain a federal waiver for the specific populations enrolled in the Basic Health Plan (BHP) and Disability Lifeline programs;
- Current restructuring of the Health Care Authority (HCA) and portions of DSHS;
- The potential use of HCA clinic funding in a strategy for bridging coverage for individuals until 2014; and
- The issuance of a non-subsidized Basic Health Plan (BHP) option.

DSHS activities:

Roger Gantz and Jenny Hamilton from DSHS provided an overview of the current work of the MPA. The MPA has been focusing on obtaining a waiver with the federal government. The primary issues that remain relate to time limits for those on the Disability Lifeline program; screening of all current BHP enrollees for Medicaid eligibility; the cost-sharing structure of the BHP; and possible maintenance of effort requirements (an issue raised by the Office of Management and Budget).

Next meeting:

The next meeting of the Advisory Group will be at **1:30 pm on Wednesday, September 15, 2010**, following the full meeting of the Joint Select Committee. The meeting will be in Olympia; however, the location has not yet been decided.