

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

November 10, 2010 Meeting Notes

Review of Low-Income Draft Principles Subgroup:

- A subgroup of the Advisory Group convened at their own initiative and developed a list of proposed principles that the larger group should consider when assessing policy options. The principles consist of policy statements and there are no cost estimates for them.
- The group was asked to send suggested changes or edits to staff by November 30. The revised principles may be incorporated in part in suggested intent legislation (see below).

Executive Branch Update:

- The Low-Income Coverage Steering Committee (convened by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)) continues to meet and discuss Executive Branch implementation issues. Effort has been focused on the waiver discussions/negotiations with CMS.
  - If a waiver is approved, legislative changes will be necessary to change Disability Lifeline time limits established last session. CMS will not allow disenrollment but would allow enrollment management efforts like waiting lists or future modifications to eligibility.
  - CMS will also require full Medicaid eligibility screening for BH applicants and the moving of all those BH enrollees that are eligible for Medicaid to Medicaid as their recertification is processed. An estimated 8,000-10,000 BH enrollees are likely eligible for Medicaid. Legislative change will be necessary in BH statute, if a waiver is approved.
  - A waiver, if approved, would focus on just adults for a three year bridge period only; result in 50% match, with state obligation to maintain current funds; keep existing programs (separate, not Medicaid) with a roll back of premiums to the lowest income groups to 2009 levels
- The Health Care Authority research-planning grant is in progress with a team of consultants on board. Preliminary information will be available in December and several additional reports due in mid-2011. The hiring process for a project manager for the state insurance exchange was underway at the time of the meeting, as well as a competitive search for the review of the system infrastructure or "IT systems".

Grant Monitoring Group:

Rep. Pettigrew has convened a group of several stakeholders to review appropriated and allocated funds from the federal government that require a match. The group has developed a chart has been to track funding opportunities under the Affordable Care Act and the status of the applications.

Phase One/Phase Two Decisions:

- The Advisory Group reviewed the handout from the previous meeting on the potential phase one decisions, and held a general discussion of which initial decisions had to be made to begin developing the necessary infrastructure to be prepared for the 2014 implementation of health reform provisions.
- The lack of certainty regarding the availability of federal funding was noted. In addition, there was an acknowledgement of the lack of fiscal data to support decision making regarding several options. Some of the HCA research expected to be available in December will provide a baseline for assessing directional impacts of various options.

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2011 Legislative Ideas:

- The Advisory Group discussed possible policy needs for the 2011 legislative session. Suggestions included intent legislation that would reflect some of the principles established by the subgroup.
- It was also suggested that there should be legislation to continue the Joint Select Committee or a similar venue that provides formal stakeholder involvement.
- Other areas that were mentioned for possible legislation related to changes necessary to implement (1) any federal waiver for the Basic Health Plan and Disability Lifeline and (2) insurance appeals revisions. It was mentioned that DSHS and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner were likely to bring forward legislation related to these latter topics.

Next Steps:

The Advisory Group selected Bill Riley and Molly Firth to present the Group's recommendations to the Joint Select Committee on November 30.