

Recommendations from Low-income Coverage Advisory Group

Pass Intent Legislation in 2011 to guide the thoughtful consideration necessary to build the future health care system for low income residents of Washington State. This legislation will state the vision and goals for implementing portions of the Affordable Care Act that impact these individuals.

A draft set of principles developed by advisory group members could be the basis for the intent legislation, including:

1. Ensure that all beneficiaries of public programs receive the appropriate financial assistance, patient navigator services, language access, transportation and other services they need to obtain quality health care.
2. Eliminate barriers that keep eligible persons from applying for, promptly receiving, and maintaining coverage through public programs, with “no wrong door” for those seeking coverage.
3. Do no harm. Ensure that no one loses coverage as a result of health care reform implementation and that all individuals can access quality, integrated, affordable health care safely.
4. Coordinate Exchange, Medicaid, CHIP and other health subsidy programs through a seamless and streamlined application, enrollment, and renewal process.
5. Take advantage of federal Medicaid early expansion options, to the extent possible, and ensure full, prompt enrollment of all individuals with incomes below 133% FPL no later than January 1, 2014.
6. Improve coordination of care for all low-income individuals with multiple chronic conditions and integrate acute, chronic management, mental health and long term care services.
7. Create a transparent, ongoing process to include low-income constituents in decision-making regarding health programs.
8. Evaluate and take advantage of new service delivery and payment reform opportunities provided by the Affordable Care Act (includes duals and health care home opportunities). Leverage other federal grants and funding opportunities.

The Advisory Committee recommends reauthorization of the Joint Select Committee through 2013. The Committee’s advisory group structure is one of few opportunities stakeholders have to participate in health care reform implementation activities and planning.