

Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange Advisory Task Force

Meeting Summary

January 17, 2012

- I. Welcome and Housekeeping
Commissioner Rothman welcomed members of the Task Force and thanked Mr. Babington-Johnson and members of the Task Force for organizing the agenda and speakers for the meeting.

- II. Meeting Overview – Health Disparities Discussion
Mr. Babington-Johnson welcomed the Task Force and thanked them for their participation. He explained that issues surrounding health disparities are greater than just access to health insurance, including the increasing cost of health care. Mr. Babington-Johnson noted that disparities exist today and Medicaid offers challenges and opportunities.

- III. Insurance Exchange Potential Impact re: Health Disparities
Mr. Cryan thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to address the important issue of disparities and how it relates to the work of the Exchange Advisory Task Force. He noted the importance of “no wrong door” and the opportunity to connect with social services. Mr. Cryan added the importance of data to measure progress.

- IV. Achieving Health, Changing State Demographics, Health Disparities in Minnesota, Impact of Disparities on Health Costs
Commissioner Ehlinger presented on health disparities and the impact on Minnesota for the future. The presentation covered a variety of aspects of disparities including data related to disparities of wealth, income, employment, infant mortality rates, uninsurance, access to health care, diagnosis and treatment, mortality and social factors. Commissioner Ehlinger’s slides can be found on the Task Force website.

- V. Challenges and Opportunities: Medicaid and Health Disparities
Commissioner Jesson discussed a variety of issues related to health disparities including serious and persistent mental illness, AIDS, Medicaid and MinnesotaCare. She noted that there are serious moral as well as economic incentives to eliminating health disparities. Commissioner Jesson noted a number of building blocks including improving data management, ensuring culturally competent health care and a current RFP that addresses processes accessible to culturally specific groups. She described a number of obstacles to change including lengthy and confusing applications, complex eligibility rules and poor outreach and communications to communities of color. Commissioner Jesson noted a number of opportunities provided by the Exchange including simpler eligibility determinations, a platform for other social services and

integration with these services (e.g. food and housing) and quality comparisons of providers and plans to measure how treatments measure up.

VI. Panel: Lessons/Barriers to Utilization/New Models

A panel discussed their lessons learned, barriers and new models:

- Dorii Gbolo, CEO Open Cities Health Center
- Jennifer DeCubellis, LPC, Area Director Hennepin County
- Dr. Patrick Rock, CEO/Medical Director, Indian Health Board of Minneapolis
- Chris Sorenson, Director, Southwest Health and Human Services
- Rolanda Mason, Supervising Attorney, St Cloud Area Legal Services

The panel and Task Force discussed a number of issues related to health disparities including:

- Care management
- Hennepin Health pilot project
- Importance of preventative care
- Troubles with churning
- The important role of Navigators
- Eligibility dates
- Tribal issues
- Barriers to access statewide
- Complexity of public programs and difficulty getting eligible applicants enrolled
- Language and cultural barriers
- Importance of integrating public and private plans into the Exchange
- Considerations of hard to reach populations (e.g. those without access to a computer)
- Opportunities for partnership
- Importance of community specific outreach
- Importance of quality information

VII. Policy Recommendations

Task Force members Ms. Abderholden, Mr. Norrgard and Mr. Cryan discussed a number of policy levers for addressing health disparities through the Exchange:

- Minimizing the disruptive effects of churning
- Incarceration status
- Navigators
- Outreach and marketing
- Network adequacy
- No wrong door
- Data collection by the Exchange
- Verification of citizenship status
- Payment reform and accountable care organization partnerships

- Active purchaser authority
- Quality rating system
- Language services
- Exchange Board expertise

Addition detail about all of the above recommendations can be found on the Department of Commerce website.

VIII. Synopsis and Next Steps

Mr. Babington-Johnson thanked the Commissioner and members for the opportunity to discuss this important issue in the community.

Mr. Babington made the following motion:

That the Health Insurance Exchange Advisory Task Force commit to a consideration of the impact on health disparities on all policy decisions or structural recommendations it adopts.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

IX. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Commissioner Rothman thanked members of the Task Force for their time and discussion on this important issue.

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 18, 2012
Location: Department of Revenue, Skjegstad Conference Room
Agenda: Task Force discussion and voting on recommendations