



Health Matters E-Newsletter

May 15, 2008

Greetings Health Advocates!

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1. Health Reform Task Force meets 8:00-12:00, Thursday, May 22nd at the Capitol

This Thursday the Health Reform Task Force will hold its second meeting at 8:00 AM in the Capitol Rotunda (main building), room C250. This month the Task Force will discuss presentations on transparency in the insurance industry and trends in health care spending. They will receive updates from various entities, including the executive branch's work to date. [Click here](#) for agenda and related materials for this month's meeting. You can also access information from last month's meeting at the same link. Note: Additional materials were posted after last month's meeting in the *Related Materials* section.

2. HHS Interim Committee 2pm to 5pm, Wednesday, May 21 at Capitol Rm 250

HHS Interim will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd from 2:00-5:00 PM at the Capitol, Room C250.

On the agenda is an update on Medicaid funding for people with disabilities, a report on autism, and a presentation on the State Medical Examiner's Office. For more information please visit the [committee website](#).

Last month the committee paired down the list of study items they wish to look at before the 2009 session. The committee has wisely decided to take on a number of issues that could greatly improve how Medicaid and the uninsured receive care, including:

- Medical homes within Utah Medicaid;
- Within the context of health disparities, standards for medical interpreters;
- The Medicaid preferred drug list, most likely the psychotropic exemption;
- Long-term-care needs and resources;
- Respite care for the DSPD waiting list.

Over the next several months we will be working with the committee to ensure they understand the nuances of these important issues, lessons from other states, and possible solutions for Utah. If any of these issues are important to you or your community, now is a good time to have conversations with members of the committee. Click [here](#) for the committee list.

3. Bill Signing Ceremony for HB131 Community-Based Self Sufficiency Mini-Grants

Members of the Utah Multicultural Health Network, friends, and agency partners are warmly invited to join Gov. Jon Huntsman, Jr. and Rep. Jen Seelig, bill sponsor extraordinaire, in a bill signing ceremony in the Gold Room, 2nd floor of the Capitol Rotunda.



When: Thursday, May 22, 2008 2:00 pm (followed by 2:30 pm reception in room 130, Capitol Rotunda)

Where: The Gold Room, 2nd Floor State Capitol

RSVP: isabel@cuutah.org

For background on this exciting initiative and preliminary recommendations from UHPP and the MHN, click [here](#). For questions on the new initiative, call Judi at UHPP: (801) 433-2299.

4. Len Nichols Recap

During Cover the Uninsured Week UHPP, in conjunction with Governor's Office, Salt Lake Chamber, AARP, Association of Utah Community Health and the United Way of Salt Lake, brought Len Nichols out for a very successful event. Guest of honor [Len Nichols of the New America Foundation](#), a highly respected healthcare economist, shared his expertise and lessons learned from early reforming states. We will be posting a more extensive interview by Dan Bammes of KUER on our website very soon. Below are links to Len's presentation and media coverage.

- Len's presentation, [Lessons from health reform efforts around the nation: what's next for Utah?](#)
- [Health Care Reform: What's Possible?](#) by Dan Bammes, KUER—April 29, 2008
- [Midday Metro Interview with Len Nichols](#) by Lara Jones, KCPW—April 29, 2008
- [Economist calls for ancient principles in health-care reform](#) by James Thalman, Deseret News

5. Monthly Meeting

The Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP) and [Utah Community Action Partnership Association \(UCAPA\)](#) have partnered to revive and re-invigorate the “Monthly Meeting” with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Workforce Services (DWS). **Our first meeting will be June 4th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Department of Workforce Services, 1385 South State St., Room 157.**

The Monthly Meeting provides the community an opportunity to advocate for better programs, better policy, and better government. During its distinguished history, dating back over 27 years, Monthly Meeting has proved to be a productive forum to discuss issues and concerns and to work together with department officials toward mutually agreeable policy and programmatic solutions. While a substantial undertaking, the usually constructive results were well worth the effort.

We have created a [brief survey](#) to help shape future agenda’s of the Monthly Meeting. Please click [here](#) to weigh in on the topics for June’s meeting and suggest you own topics for future meetings.

Given the major challenges and opportunities public programs face in the coming years (e.g., health reform, slowing economy, growing population, baby boomers reaching retirement), the Monthly Meeting would greatly benefit all of us (the departments, advocates, and beneficiaries) as we work on these complex but important issues.

If you have issues you would like add to this or future agendas, please contact Lincoln Nehring at lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org or (801) 433-2299.

6. Draft of New Medicaid Waiver to Expand UPP

In response to HB133 Health System Reform legislation, the Department of Health released a working draft of the new HIFA 1115 waiver to implement changes in Utah’s Premium Partnership (UPP) and CHIP programs. The intent of the waiver is to increase the number of slots in the program to serve 5000 adults and 1000 children, allow individuals to purchase individual health rather than just employer sponsored insurance, and restrict families’ ability to enroll in CHIP if the parent qualifies for UPP.

You can read the working draft of the waiver [here](#).

The Department will be reviewing the waiver with it’s Medical Care Advisory Committee this afternoon (1:30 pm at the Utah Department of Health, Room 125, Cannon Health Building, 288 N. 1460 W). However, the Department has expressed a willingness to hold a community forum to discuss the waiver in the near future ([this forum may take place as part of the Monthly Meeting on June 4](#)). Stay tuned for further announcements and UHPP’s feedback on the initial waiver draft.

7. UMPP Update

The Utah Medicaid Policy Partnership is meeting on **June 12 from 12:30 to 2:00pm at AUCH (860 East 4500 South, Suite 206)**. This month we will be building off our recently completed retreat and taking a closer look at the medical home concept.

We will first look at what other states are doing to implement medical homes within their

state Medicaid programs. Then we will learn more about the medical home project currently underway in Utah for children with special needs and similar. You can read more about the medical home concept in UHPP's fact sheet, [Medical Home: Improving Quality While Containing Cost](#), by clicking [here](#).

From more information and to RSVP please contact Lincoln at lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org or 433-2299.

8. PATCH ADAMS at Kingsbury Hall – Friday, May 16 - 7:00PM to 10:00PM

The Arts in Caring Council brings you an inspiring event with Dr. Patch Adams, the real person behind the hit movie "Patch Adams" starring Robin Williams. Patch will be delivering his presentation "Living a Life of Joy" at

Where: Kingsbury Hall

When: Friday, May 16, at 7 p.m.

Tickets: <http://kingsburyhall.org> or 801.581.7100

Cost: \$25 per person, \$10 for students, seniors, and children ages 5-12. (Children under 5 are not admitted).

For Info: Shannon McQuade 801-485-6166 or shannon@artsincaringcouncil.org

9. Last Call to Take Survey, Enter to Win 1 of 3 fabulous remaining prizes!

Thanks to the 650 people who have already filled out our survey—we are learning a great deal from all of you and getting connected to more stories than we can handle! To those of you who have signed up for specific activities or positions (for example, the 265 individuals or organizations who have endorsed UHPP's Guiding Principles for Health System Reform or the 165 respondents who have uninsured stories to share): please be patient as we work with our volunteers and interns to process all of the responses.

From the responses gathered so far, 1 thing is clear: the interest in bold, systemic reform is truly unprecedented, and even more important, the interest in taking purposeful, organized action together as a community has never been greater. We will do everything we can to effectively mobilize this commitment to bold reform (we never promised this survey would be entirely scientific!)

Please join us in congratulating last week's prize winners: Robyn Lipkowitz of Voices for Utah Children won the \$75 gift certificate to a Gastronomy restaurant, and Amanda Cordova of Tooele won the bike tune up from Wasatch Touring (fortunately, Amanda is a biker).

If you have not yet taken the survey, you have 1 week left. Click [here](#) to take it now.

Background on the Survey & Link

So that we can better serve you during 2008-09, please take 8 minutes to answer a few survey questions. We have a lot of work ahead of us this year, with the passage of numerous health-related bills (HB133, Health System Reform; HB131, Community-Based Self Sufficiency Mini-Grants; HB364, Health Coverage Promotion, and HB326, CHIP Open Enrollment). We have a tremendous opportunity to help all Utahns gain

access to quality, affordable health care.

As we nail down our research, policy, and organizing efforts for the coming year, we'd like to know what YOU think. Would you like to get more directly involved in our efforts? What are your priorities for health care? The survey is brief and everyone who completes it before May 23rd gets the chance to win one of the following thank you gifts (each generously donated by our community supporters).

1. Snake Creek Grill in Midway– dinner for 2
2. ~~\$75 Gastronomy Gift Card~~ **Congrats to winner, Robyn Lipkowitz**
3. ~~\$25 Gastronomy Gift Card~~
4. \$50 Gift Certificate to Mazza Middle Eastern Eatery
5. Utah Symphony Tickets – 2 tickets to any show of the 2009 Season
6. ~~Wasatch Touring Bike or Ski Tune-Up (\$30 Value)~~ **Congrats to Amanda Cordova!**
7. ~~Wasatch Touring Bike or Ski Tune-Up (\$30 Value)~~
8. ~~Certificate for 1-Hour Massage, Utah College of Massage Therapy (\$25 value)~~

The final deadline for completing the survey is still May 23, 2008. We will hold the final prize drawing on that day at 5:00 pm.

To take the brief survey, click [here](#):

Or here:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=smNF8Q8m6vjhrkim2s2_2bag_3d_3d

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