

UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

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NEWS RELEASE

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***Exchange at the Crossroads:* an updated policy brief from the Utah Health Policy Project.**

Salt Lake City: The Utah Health Policy Project has released an updated brief on the Utah Health Exchange entitled *Exchange at the Crossroads*. “Utah Health Exchange staff have been working hard within the limitations that Utah’s policy makers have set: limitations that include a small budget and only 3 staff. In addition, Utah’s leaders have not addressed the important elements that would allow the Exchange to really make a dent in the high cost of health insurance for Utah’s 67,000 small businesses and 144,000 self-employed — affordability standards, pooled risk, seamless eligibility with premium subsidies and public programs, and the inclusion of the individual market” states Shelly Braun, Ph.D., Reform Initiatives Director with the Utah Health Policy Project.

“Exchange at the Crossroads is a must read for anyone who wants the full story on the history of Utah’s Exchange, what’s worked and what hasn’t, and what lies up the road,” continues Braun. “Utah’s small businesses drive our economy—but most can’t afford to provide health insurance for their employees. They want high quality, accessible, affordable health insurance. Right now, that’s just not available in Utah.”

UHPP is releasing this updated report as a welcome to the exchange directors, policy makers, IT folks, and HHS officials from 26 states coming in to Utah this week to tour Utah’s Health Exchange and meet with Leavitt Partners.

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