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Howdy, Partnership Exchange

When it comes to the Affordable Care Act, Utah has certainly dated around. First, we flirted with a [federal exchange](#) last fall. Then, in December, Gov. Gary Herbert settled on a [state-run approach](#). The federal government [blessed the union](#) in early January. But the homegrown honeymoon dissolved after two months when the governor [announced on Tuesday](#) that Utah will pursue a unique [partnership exchange](#).

Details [are still sparse](#), but it appears that Utah will split up the exchanges. The state will retain control of the small business exchange ([Avenue H](#)), though it will need to satisfy the [more robust ACA standards for SHOP exchanges](#). Meanwhile, the federal government will manage the individual marketplace. This arrangement will give the federal government primary control over Medicaid screening on the individual exchange. The feds will then refer qualified individuals to the state for final determination and sign-up. Red flag: It's likely that the state will attempt downplay any Medicaid screening on the state-run small business exchange. Plus, the ACA won't allow Utah to retain Avenue H's [defined contribution](#) system, but the state could try to preserve as much of the existing model as possible. After all, Gov. Herbert and legislative leaders switched to a partnership exchange to preserve the market-based reform efforts



[Utah's 2013 Legislative Session: January 28th – March 14th, 2013](#)
[Visit the legislature's website](#) to see the legislative schedule, and find bills.
 Need to contact your representative or senator? Check out UHPP's [2013 Legislative Roster](#) for emails, phone numbers, and social media (Facebook, Twitter) contacts

[\(CANCELLED\)](#)
[Senate Health and Human Services Standing Committee](#)
 Wednesday, February 6, 2013
 Time: 8:00 AM
 Location: [250 State Capitol, Utah State Capitol Complex](#)

[Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee](#)
 Tuesday, February 19, 2013
 Time: 8:00am

embodied in Avenue H. As a bonus, they also transferred the main responsibility of covering Utah's uninsured residents to the federal government.

Additional details on consumer assistance, governance, and funding for assistors remain to be determined. Another challenge of dual exchanges is that their likely separate outreach, branding, and websites will increase confusion among consumers. One reason for hope, however, is that the fed's individual exchange will be the best opportunity to extend insurance coverage to Utah's nearly 400,000 insured residents. Based on the experience of Massachusetts, which pioneered state-based health reform in 2006, the vast majority of uninsured [find coverage](#) on the individual exchange—not on the small business side. As of December 2012, the ACA-compliant [Massachusetts Connector](#) counted 225,000 people on its individual exchange, and only 4,750 enrollees on its small business exchange.

More good news: With HHS overseeing Utah's individual marketplace *and* consumer assistance (likely, but not certain), they will be contracting with local navigators who can reach the estimated 76% of Utah's uninsured with household income under 200% of poverty. [Take Care Utah](#) (TCU) is positioning itself to be the statewide hub for these community-based navigators. HHS is more likely to recognize an organized navigator program, like Take Care Utah and our partners at [United Way of Salt Lake](#) and [2-1-1](#), than the state. Stay tuned for more on that front—and how your organization (if you provide navigation and enrollment assistance) can play a role. To learn more about the [No Wrong Door Network of Community-Based Navigators](#) (Take Care Utah), email [Randal Serr](#), TCU's director.

On the heels of Tuesday's [major announcement](#), the first meeting of the **Utah Exchange Action Team (U-EAT)** will be today, Wednesday, February 6th, at 1:00 pm in the [Olmsted Room at the State Capitol](#) (East/Senate side). And yes, we will have [tasty snacks](#). Check out the notice and agenda below for more details.

Location: [Room 30, House Building](#)

Please sign up with Debbie Benson by 3pm, February 15, at 801-538-1034 to provide your public input.

Review the [agenda](#) (usually posted 1-2 days before the meeting) to confirm Medicaid expansion will be discussed, or check out [U4Me's Facebook page](#) or [Twitter feed](#) for updates and announcements.

UHPP Coalition Meetings (U4ME and U-EAT)

Join us at the Capitol every Wednesday for these strategy meetings in the [Capitol Senate Building](#) (East Side)

Family Investment Coalition

Wednesdays, 12:15-1:00pm

Location: [Olmsted Room](#) at the Capitol- Senate Building (East Side)

Utahns for Medicaid Expansion (U4ME)

(*New location)

Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm

Location: [Beehive Room](#) at the Capitol- Senate Building (East Side)

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Utah Exchange Action Today (U-EAT)

(*Inaugural meeting)

Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00pm

Location: [Olmsted Room](#) at the Capitol- Senate Building (East Side)

Community Open Forum on Health Reform

Time: 2nd Thursdays of every month at 9:30am (first meeting February 14th)

Location: TBD (watch for notice on [UHPP's](#) website)

Issue: Stakeholder discussion and sounding board arranged by Dr. Norm Thurston, the governor's Health Reform Implementation Coordinator, regarding Utah's health exchanges (Avenue H) and ACA implementation

Take Care Utah Advisory Team

The first meeting of [Take Care Utah's](#) new advisory team took place on Tuesday, February 5th at the [Salt Lake City Fire Dept. Station #1](#) (211 South 500 East SLC, UT 84111). If you would like to be a part of this exciting effort, email [Randal Serr](#), or call him at (801) 433-229

x4.

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Utah Exchange Action Team (U-EAT)

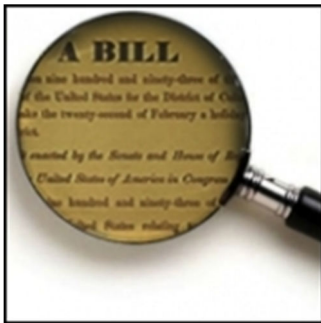
Note: Tomorrow we will meet by ourselves, but we'll normally meet back-to-back with [Utahns for Medicaid Expansion](#) (U4ME)

Time: Wednesday, 1:00-2:00pm

Place: [Olmsted Room at the Capitol- Senate Building](#) (East Side)

Proposed Agenda for U-EAT

- 1-Introductions (and snacks)
- 2-Update on Utah's recent decision to pursue a Partnership exchange
- 3-What we should focus on (consumer assistance, Medicaid screening, governance...)
- 4-What needs to happen before October 1, 2013 (enrollment begins)
- 5-Who else needs to be here and engaged in U-EAT?



Bill Tracker

In this last legislative session before full implementation of health reform, no one should be surprised by a flood of bills.

Check out [UHPP's Bill Tracker](#) for the latest on details on what's happening on the Hill.

Read more [here](#).



U4Me Faces Challenges

[Utahns for Medicaid Expansion](#) (U4ME) is moving ahead. Our major challenge is that key stakeholders like the Utah [Hospital Association](#) are too quiet.

Read more [here](#).



Health Policy Toolkit

Quiz Time: How well do you know the ACA?

If you're reading this newsletter you probably think you're an expert on health care reform. Prove it by [taking this 12-question quiz](#) about the ACA. Enter your name and access code "UHPP" to [begin the quiz](#). After you finish, download a PDF of your score and [email](#) it to UHPP. The first perfect score gets a gift certificate to a fancy SLC restaurant.



View from DC

UHPP attended last week's Health Action 2013 conference in DC. We learned that the term "exchange" is dead, and many other things.

Read more [here](#).



Magical Mystery Bills

Not all bills are created equal. Some are hidden from view until halfway through the session. What are you missing? Lots.

Read more [here](#)



Next Steps for ACOs

Utah took some promising first steps to build Accountable Care organizations (ACOs) in 2011. But we need the legislature to continue those steps this year.

Read more [here](#).

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