Let's finish the job...

2008

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Utah Health Policy Project

www.healthpolicyproject.org
From Executive Director Judi Hilman: Let’s finish the job... together

This is our time......Our nation is poised to make unprecedented reforms to our health care system, and UHPP is right where we want to be. Our mission – to develop fiscally sustainable reforms which will increase access to health care, improve quality, and contain costs – is right in line with reforms being sought by Governor Huntsman, Speaker Clark, and President Obama. As a result, this year we have taken our seat at the table, working directly with the movers and shakers who are determined to make reform happen this year. Make no mistake about it – it’s an exciting time. It has been a blessing to lead our dedicated team to solid policy victories, to build our community partnerships, to expand our network of funders and volunteers...to see change happen before our eyes.

In the policy arena we used our comprehensive research to show legislators exactly how they could keep Medicaid whole by maximizing Federal economic stimulus monies and implementing proven cost-containment measures. Our credibility with legislators on these issues has been hard won, and as a result we convinced legislators to restore two optional Medicaid services, affecting thousands of Utahns. Our policy expertise will be put to further use on the national scale as we join with 16 other states in Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Consumer Voices for Coverage program for national health reform.

There was a time that we were called “dreamers” for our visionary goals – we have been convinced from our inception that we can achieve universal coverage, lower costs, and higher quality. But now the dream is real: President Obama and Governor Huntsman are on board with our mission, and health care reform is on the move. We will continue to work as hard as ever to achieve our aims and to make the voices of Utahns heard, at every step of the way. We cannot thank our funders and supporters enough for their stalwart support. Together, we are ready to “bring it home” and finish the job.
From Board Chair Linn Baker: The Dream Becomes Real...

It has been my privilege as Chair of the UHPP Board to watch our committed staff achieve remarkable success this past year. They have worked tirelessly to bring quality research to bear on the reform process, and to give all Utahns a voice as we face the challenges of overhauling Utah’s health care system. It was gratifying to see legislators relying on UHPP’s top-notch research to guide tough Medicaid funding decisions in the face of budget shortfalls.

UHPP’s credibility with policymakers is evident across every area of health reform. For example our persistent advocacy for greater transparency helped to ensure that reforms will be designed to enable consumers to make fully informed, cost effective choices about their care and coverage. UHPP’s consistent emphasis on the critical role of evidence-based medicine for reducing inefficient utilization, managing costs, and improving quality is also starting to pay off.

Our Executive Director, Judi Hilman, has been incredibly effective in leading UHPP, championing our bold initiatives while ‘minding the store’ and building valuable community partnerships. Her talent was recognized this past year when she received Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s prestigious Community Health Leader award. She richly deserves this recognition, and the financial award will be put to good use strengthening the infrastructure for consumer health assistance and patient activation. Thanks to our many supporters in the community, UHPP is making the most of today’s momentum for bold health system reform at the state and national level. We look forward to working with all of you to make this once elusive dream a concrete reality.

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Elizabeth Garbe, Coverage Initiatives Director
Jessica Kendrick, Community Engagement Director
Lincoln Nehring, Medicaid Policy Director

2008 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
Solid Results in 2008-09 Set Stage for Bold Health System Reforms

Here we present a selection of results by core initiative...

**Medicaid/CHIP Policy Clinic**
- Educated policymakers on how to make prudent and timely use of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (economic stimulus plan) with tools like the Navigator and a 2009 edition of the Medicaid economic impact report;
- Strengthened Utah’s Preferred Drug List Program ($1.4 million in savings);
- Reintroduced risk-based contracting into Medicaid managed care ($3 mil.);
- Restored Medicaid physical therapy and occupational therapy;
- Maintained eligibility for ‘optional’ groups, including: aged/blind/disability group, pregnant women, and foster kids.

**Coverage Initiatives**
- On the last day of the session HB178 was introduced and passed at UHPP’s request. The bill extends access to both the state’s mini-COBRA coverage for laid-off employees and the new Federal COBRA subsidy;
- Successfully amended many sections of HB188, the principal vehicle for health system reforms in Utah, including:
  - Basic benefit was changed from NetCare to the lowest qualified high-deductible plan;
  - The task force was extended for another year and given extensive reporting requirements;
  - Broker transparency and a risk adjuster were included.
- Educated policymakers on the need to strengthen public programs as a first step in health reform.

**Quality Watch and Health Equity Initiatives**
- Came very close to lifting the 5-year waiting period on permanent legal resident children’s eligibility for CHIP/Medicaid, laying the groundwork for victory in 2010;
- Provided research and advocacy training to support the Utah Multicultural Health Network in its successful campaign to enact a new voluntary certification process for medical interpreters.

_Please note:_
- **Utah Health Policy Project**
- [www.healthpolicyproject.org](http://www.healthpolicyproject.org)
- UHPP’s Lincoln Nehring speaks at Medicaid press conference
- Katie & Steve Hatch (UHPP Board member) of Hatch Family Chocolates
A Breakthrough Year for Community Engagement Initiatives

Our fourth category of activity is more functional, and it supports the 3 core initiatives. UHPP employs a variety of strategies to bring consumer and small business voices to the table where health policy decisions are made:

- Asked to co-convene the Community Workgroup, 1 of 5 formed to advise the state’s Health System Reform Task Force; organized satellite meetings in 13 towns and cities across the state, engaging over 500 individuals in the process;
- Expanded our popular storybank by creating a new ‘storybank subscription service’ for policymakers; innovated a new type of story that points to the relevant policy solution (our stories were mentioned on several occasions in floor debates);
- Organized a very successful press conference on Medicaid cuts featuring consumers and providers from each area proposed for elimination;
- Convened several statewide discussions on national health reform, using satellite video conference technologies;
- Organized 1st Annual UHPP Health Policy Conference, Health System Reform, the Key to Economic Recovery, with nationally renowned speakers John Holahan (Urban Institute) and Brian Rosman (Health Care for All-Massachusetts);
- Engaged the Chamber, United Way, Governor’s Office of Economic Development, AARP, and AUCH to bring Len Nichols of New America Foundation out for a full day of meetings around launching state health reforms;
- Organized 4 Summits with candidates and incumbents across the state about health reform and the status of Medicaid;
- Met with and engaged 6 local Chambers of Commerce;
- 28 major organizational endorsements to implement the Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) in Utah;
- 30 strategic organizational endorsements of Utah Medicaid Partnership principles for addressing Medicaid budget cuts;
- 30 new organizational and individual members of Utahns for Sustainable Health Reform (U-SHARE);
- Published regular e-newsletters (Health Matters) and alerts to keep supporters informed and fully activated on the issues;
- Issued 1000’s of timely and targeted calls to action during the legislative session, encouraging constituents to contact their legislators around key votes; organized 3 lobby days with key stakeholders around restoring critical Medicaid services;
- Invited to give many presentations —ranging from Grand Rounds at the local hospital to Rotary clubs and college classes.

2008 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
2008 Financial Summary

Total Revenues: $402,580

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<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations, National</td>
<td>$285,000</td>
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<td>Foundations, Local</td>
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Expense

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<td>Salaries &amp; Related</td>
<td>$207,707</td>
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<td>Misc Business</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$271,222</strong></td>
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* Differences from graph due to rounding.

UHPP’s accounting system is on an accrual basis. This means that, even if paid sometime in 2009 or later, all grant receivables (expected income) registered in 2008 show up as revenue for 2008.

Total Expenses: $271,224

www.healthpolicyproject.org
A BIG THANKS to our Funders, Donors, Volunteers, and Interns

NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS
Public Welfare Foundation
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:
  - Community Health Leaders
  - Consumer Voices for Coverage II

LOCAL FOUNDATIONS
Erin S. Kimball Foundation
Fieldstone Foundation (match)
Intermountain Healthcare
M. Lazy M Foundation
United Way of Salt Lake

CORPORATE & NONPROFIT
AARP-Utah
Association for Utah Community Health
Bonneville International
Community Action Partners of Utah
Intermountain Pediatric Society
Molina Healthcare
Salt Lake Chamber
Salt Lake Community Action Program
St. Mark’s Hospital
Utah Partners for Health
Wasatch Mental Health

STATE & FEDERAL FUNDERS
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Governor’s Office of Economic Development
Utah State Employees Charitable Fund

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS
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Hatch Family Chocolates
Magnum Computers
XMission

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Amy Thatcher (U of U Nursing)
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This Report is dedicated to the distinguished legacy of Bill Orton, one of our longest serving Board members. Bill’s impact on our issues will be felt for generations to come.