



Health Matters E-Newsletter

November 15, 2010

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1. LET'S GET BUSY: A POST-ELECTION TO-DO LIST FOR HEALTH SYSTEM REFORMERS

As most of you know, the election brought significant changes to the Utah Legislature. As far as health reform is concerned, Speaker Clark is now Rep. Clark, and he has been replaced by Speaker Becky Lockhart. While we will miss having Dave Clark in leadership, we are pleased that he will be more available to work on health reform. Indeed, in a [recent Daily Herald article](#), Rep. Clark said he intends to push forward with health reform.

Now is the time to...

- Send notes of congratulations to [newly elected senators and representatives](#).
- If you don't know the new legislator, you might write a brief note of introduction about yourself and the issues you care about.
- You could write a letter to outgoing legislators thanking them for their service and attention to your issues.
- To help you with all of this, here is our [updated Utah Legislators spreadsheet](#). As soon as committee assignments are finalized (this week), we will update this spreadsheet.
- Prepare to attend upcoming summits with elected officials, to be scheduled in December and January (details at Thursday's special joint meeting of U-SHARE and the Utah Medicaid Partnership).

2. POWERPOINTS FROM RECENT CONFERENCE, 'SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED'

For those not able to join us at our recent 'Some Assembly Required' conference or those who did but want a summary, we present links to the Powerpoint presentations (ppt) here. Watch our website for the full Highlights.

Please join us in thanking our eloquent and engaging out-of-town speakers: Community Catalyst (Debbie Katz, Jen Lemmerman, Michael Miller, and Katherine Howitt); the National Indian Health Board (Jennifer Cooper) and Small Business Majority (Rhett Buttle). Somehow these folks managed to distill the massive amounts of ACA detail into the core essentials we need to move forward on implementation—I know we will benefit from their tremendous efforts in the months and years ahead.

We want also to thank you for your interest in the event and for your patience with the space—we ran out of room! Next year we get a larger space with more elbow room and spaces for more focused discussions.

Read Judi's opening remarks [here](#).

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) – Annotated and Explained

To start us off, Michael (see [bios of all speakers](#)) gave us a comprehensive overview of key and lesser known provisions of the ACA, the timeline for different ACA initiatives, and thoughts about the current political and health systems realities that are likely to influence implementation in Utah. Click [here](#) for powerpoint (PPT).

Reform for Indian Country (Jennifer Cooper, National Indian Health Board)

First, J.C makes a point of clarifying the HIS (Indian Health Service) is a public health delivery system. It replaced the more traditional approach to health care (caring for each other) with a formal, direct care model. JC went on to describe the differences between the IHS care available on tribal territory or in Urban Indian health care settings based on her own experience as an enrolled member of the Seneca Tribe, on and off the reservation. Health reform, which includes a significant and well funded re-authorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, will go far in addressing the significant health disparities of tribal and urban Indians. Indian Country will fight repeal of the ACA with all we've got. If it is repealed, we will work hard to separate out the IHCA from the rest. Expectations for reform include:

- Cover the Indian uninsured
- Address provider shortages and quality gaps
- Reduce disparities
- Cultural competency
- Benefit from new funding opportunities
- Implement Indian-specific provisions
- Recognize and affirm what is unique about Indian health systems
- Require all federal and state officials to engage in meaningful tribal consultation throughout implementation process

The full PPT is en route.

Key Issues for Utah I: Exchanges (Michael Miller, presenter). Get the PPT [here](#).

Key Issues for Utah II: Medicaid (Katherine Howitt, presenter). Get the PPT [here](#).

3. BECAUSE HEALTH CARE DOES NOT STOP AT THE NECK: THE STATUS OF MENTAL HEALTH IN REFORM

This week we had 2 requests for information on how the new health reform law will impact access to mental health care. Visit our much updated [Implementation Station](#) ("I-Station") for helpful links on this topic. There you will find several other new additions to our popular *I-Station*.

4. MAKING HEALTH REFORM WORK FOR KIDS: WELL-TESTED SOLUTIONS TO MAKE UP FOR LOSS OF CHILD-ONLY PLANS

Under an early provision of federal health reform, insurers may no longer apply pre-existing condition limitations for children under age 19. This provision of the law was interpreted by HHS to mean that all children would have "guaranteed issue" (i.e. health insurance could be purchased at any time irrespective of health status). This ruling prompted most carriers across the country to either stop selling "child only" policies or drop out of the individual market entirely. To prevent any further disruption to the market, we propose two solutions: a Medicaid/CHIP Buy-In and HIPUtah as a fail safe for children. Get our new issue brief [here](#). To get involved in this emerging campaign, send email to judi@healthpolicyproject.org.

5. LOOKING BACK: Highlights from October Interim

Get links to minutes or audio from last month's committee meetings.

- [Health and Human Services Interim Committee](#)
- [Executive Appropriations Committee](#)
- [Health System Reform Task Force Highlights](#)

Health System Reform Task Force WORKGROUPS

At its productive meeting last week, the **Implementation Oversight Workgroup** discussed process flows and technical issues in Utah's current Exchange. Also, there was an update on the weekly early AM meetings to sort out the interface with Utah Premium Partnership—this should be reported out at the full Task Force meeting this week. The meeting also touched on forthcoming draft legislation sponsored by Rep. Jim Dunnigan. UHPP will be releasing its analysis of this draft legislation, the main bill for state reform, on Wednesday morning.

See full Interim Highlights from October [here](#).

6. LOOKING FORWARD: Appropriations, Interim & Health Reform Task Force Agendas for November 16-18

Don't miss this month's Executive Appropriations Committee meeting (Tuesday, November 16 1:00 PM in room 445 State Capitol). Please note agenda items 3 & 4:

- LFA In-Depth Budget Review: Department of Human Services
- GOPB In-Depth Budget Review: Medicaid Coordination

Gov. Gary Herbert has called a [special legislative session](#) on November 17 1:00 pm to authorize acceptance of the \$101 million in federal aid to cash-strapped school districts. The Legislature is expected to approve this.

Health System Reform Task Force: November 17 Wednesday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM in Room 250 State Capitol.

The agenda includes the standard topics AND [presentation of draft legislation](#)—not to be missed.

Health and Human Services Interim Committee: November 17, 2:00-5:00 PM, Room 250 State Capitol. Note this meeting includes discussion of Rep. Evan Vickers' draft legislation, "Pharmacy Benefit Manager Act," which has implications for Utah's preferred drug list.

[SPECIAL, PRE-SESSION MEETING OF THE HHS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE: November 18, 2010 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM](#) in room 210 Senate Bldg. This meeting for newly appointed members of this committee features many critical Department of Health topics, including Medicaid coordination, fraud prevention, and performance measures. NOT TO BE MISSED.

According to committee co-chair Sen. Allen Christensen, there may be time for public comment but not much. **Now is the time to send emails to committee co-chairs asking for a pre-Session public hearing.**

- Sen. Christensen: achristensen@utahsenate.org
- Rep. John Dougall: repjohndougall@gmail.com

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Introducing Kim Myers, UHPP's Community Engagement Director:** Kim received a BS from Weber State University and a MSW from Portland State University. In Portland, Kim focused on social work practice in community based settings and further developed her capacity to mobilize communities to advocate for positive change. She has spent time working with children and families in a variety of roles, including; counseling with Valley Mental Health, supporting mentoring relationships with Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, and partnering with youth and families to advocate for family needs in schools, communities, and within juvenile and family court systems with the Juvenile Rights Project. Kim is excited to join the UHPP as Community Engagement Director. She is passionate about the work, as she knows there is a strong connection between access to quality, comprehensive health care and the overall well being and quality of life for individuals and communities. Kim was born in Salt Lake City and spent much of her childhood and adult life exploring the great beauty that Utah has to offer.
- **UMP/U-SHARE Special Joint Pre-Session Strategy Meeting**
When: November 18th 4-6:00 PM
Where: Olmstead Room, State Capitol, East Bldg



RSVP: volunteer@healthpolicyproject.org (Space is limited!)

With a new slate of legislative leaders, in particular Rep. Dave Clark's loss of the speakership, we certainly have our work cut out for us! Now is the time to pin down strategies for the 2011 Session. The purpose of this special pre-Session, post-conference, joint meeting of U-SHARE and the Medicaid Policy Partnership is to strategize on health and human budget and health reform priorities going into the 2011 General Session. With us we will have Cliff Strachan, the Governor's health budget analyst. Whatever you're working on in your shop, **bring it** to the meeting with any background info you can share.

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