

Arkansas Health Benefits Exchange Planning

State Agencies	October 27, 2011	Arkansas Insurance Department- Hearing Room 1 st Floor	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
<p>Members Present: Michael Crump for Marilyn Strickland Joni Jones Jason Lee Marquita Little Frank Scott</p> <p>Staff: Bruce Donaldson</p> <p>Guest: Hershel Cleveland Dwane Tankersley</p>		<p>Members Absent: Claire Bailey Linda Greer Dr. Paul Halverson Sheena Olson Kym Patterson Ray Scott Marilyn Strickland Dawn Zekis</p>	

Meeting Summary:

- I. Bruce Donaldson-HBE, opened the meeting. Workgroup members and guests introduced themselves.
- II. **The State Agency Workgroup meeting summary from September 22 was approved** as circulated without corrections and will be posted as “final” on the HBE website.
- III. Updates
 - A. Project Report/CCIIO Update-Bruce Donaldson provided a written report (handout). Bruce informed the workgroup members that the No Cost Extension was up for review on October 21 and was approved by default which will facilitate funding through January 29, 2012. The next deadline for the Level One Grant Application is December 31, 2011. The Exchange Planning Staff is moving forward with preparations to apply and are keeping options option for the Partnership models as well. Bruce informed the workgroup members that the Governor received a letter from six Republican Representatives that caused the September Level One Application to fail. Bruce reported that the Stakeholder Summit was held on October 11 at Embassy Suites. There were some rude comments directed at the Insurance Commissioner by some Republican attendees. The opinions expressed were that all planning efforts should stop and they were upset that a summit was held. The Exchange Planning Staff is moving forward with the Public Hearing which will be held in November and December. The hearings will be held throughout the state and will also be teleconferenced. The date and times have not yet been set. Additional information will be shared with the workgroups as it becomes available.
 - B. Surgeon General’s Summit-Bruce reported that Craig Wilson has provided a handout. The Surgeon General will be holding a Summit on November 7, 2011 at the Arkansas Children’s Hospital Chairman’s Ballroom. There is the capacity for approximately 160 attendees. The Summit will be a two hour meeting held from 9:00am to 11:00am. Dr. Thompson will make a presentation outlining the visions that are going on in Arkansas between HIT, Medicaid, the Exchange and Technology. It will explain how they will work

together to provide better Healthcare options for Arkansans. Steve Barnes will lead a one hour question session where attendees will be given an opportunity to ask questions via email. Steve will then filter the questions and present the questions to the panel for their responses.

IV. New Business

A. No Level One Funding Application-What now?

The September Level One Application that was supposed to be submitted in September did not succeed. The No Cost Extension was granted and will end on January 29, 2012. The next and final opportunity to apply for Level One Funding is December 31, 2011 and the final opportunity to apply for Level Two Funding is June 2012. Bruce stated that the Insurance Commissioner has a meeting scheduled with the Governor on November 1, 2011 to discuss the Partnership options. So, we are in a holding pattern until then.

B. New Federal Partnership Options (hand out)

Bruce reported that the State Partnership model is a Federal Exchange where the Feds would oversee eligibility and enrollment yet it provides some options for state control. Bruce encouraged the workgroup members to submit any questions they may have regarding the Partnership option to Cindy so that they can be submitted to CCIIO at the end of the month. The three available options are as follows:

1. Plan Management-This option would allow the State to oversee the plans offered in the exchange
2. Selected Consumer Assistance-This option would allow the State to oversee the Navigator Program and Outreach/Education program.
3. Both-This option would allow the State to oversee both of the above mentioned areas of the exchange.

V. Future Exchange Planning Discussions

A. Agenda Items for next meeting- At this point the workgroups are at a stand still until after the meeting with the Governor which is scheduled for November 1, 2011. After the meeting the Exchange Planning Staff will decide the direction of our planning efforts and which topics will need to be discussed during future meetings.

B. The next meeting will be held November 17, 2p to 4p at AID Hearing room, 1st Floor.

VI. Comments

1. Commenter stated that as of this morning the Surgeon General Summit had reached capacity for the Chairman's Hall at Arkansas Children's Hospital however there are additional options to view the summit from another location at ACHI via video conferencing.
2. Commenter stated that the 2.5% state premium tax will potentially be lost with a Partnership model and the state will have to find a way to make up that income. The income is currently to help fund the volunteer fireman program, pensions, etc.
3. Commenter stated that from the eligibility perspective the planning process is very important no matter whether there is a State or Federal Exchange.
4. Commenter stated that Democrats are keeping silent despite being the majority.

5. Commenter stated that DHS is trying to look at IT capabilities in preparation for when a decision is made on whether there will be a State or Federal Exchange however they are limited on what options to explore because of the uncertainty.

VII. Questions

1. What percentage of the cases would go through the exchange without needing follow-up for eligibility?
Response-70% is expected to need some type of follow-up only leaving 30% expected to not require follow-up.
2. Is the assumption going to be that even with a Partnership model, it is still related to the Healthcare Reform and the Republicans position is still going to remain the same?
Response-That is a possible outcome because appropriation will still require Legislative approval. The Partnership Options are considered a Federal Exchange.
3. Is there sufficient appropriation available for funding if the grant applications are approved?
Response-At each turn appropriation will still have to go before the Legislature for approval.
4. Where are we as far as funding to keep efforts going?
Response-The Level One application was not submitted in September, there is another opportunity to apply in December which would provide coverage. The December application would be for a reduced funding amount due to it being a Partnership Model. If nothing changes on the political front, it is not likely that HBE will apply in December.