

Arkansas Health Benefits Exchange Planning

Healthcare Industry-Insurance Carriers/ Healthcare Providers/Professional Associations	November 17, 2011	Arkansas Studies Institute Rm. 124	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Members Present: Edward Anderson Dr. Darlene Byrd Mike Castleberry Jim Clark David Holman Austin Gaines David Ivers James Juillerat for Sam Partin Treg Long Sip Mouden Raymond Ortega Doug Stadter	Staff: Cindy Crone Bruce Donaldson Craig Wilson, ACHI	Members Absent: Julie Benafield Ed Choate Steve Gelios Carla Groff John Harriman Leo Hauser Dr. Drew Kumpuris Jacque Martin Lesley Nalley Sharon Oglesby Marvin Parks Sam Partin John Ryan Marie Sandusky Mike Stock Billy Tarpley Sheila Waits Arthur Wolover	

Meeting Summary:

- I. Cindy Crone-HBE, opened the meeting. Workgroup members and guests introduced themselves.
- II. **The Healthcare Industry Workgroup meeting summary from October 27 was approved** as circulated without corrections and will be posted as “final” on the HBE website.
- III. Updates
 - A. Project Report/CCIIO Update-(Handout provided) Cindy Crone reported that the No Cost Extension was approved and that the Exchange Planning Staff has requested a second No Cost Extension that will provide funding through September 29, 2012. Cindy reported that Craig Wilson prepared the proposed reg’s comments and they were submitted. Cindy also reported that the Quarterly report for period 7-1-11 through 9-30-11 was submitted to CCIIO. Cindy notified the workgroup members that Bruce Donaldson attended a NAIC meeting in Maryland October 31, 2011 through November 2, 2011. Bruce reported that the meeting focused on “SERFF” which is a NAIC program that would be used for qualifying plans. Cindy informed the workgroup that no decision has been made whether or not the AID will move forward with the Level One Funding application. Cindy stated that the Level One Application has been revised to fit a Federal Partnership and if submitted will request \$5 to \$6 million. The last date to request Level One Funding is December 30, 2011.
 - B. Steering Committee Report- Cindy notified the workgroup that the Steering Committee met on November 15, 2011 and made the decision to discontinue all workgroup meetings effective at the end of this week. The Steering Committee had previously recommended that the workgroups be realigned to match the Federal Partnership Model. The newly aligned workgroups will begin meeting in January if the Level One Funding Application is submitted. The new workgroups are as follows:

1. Information Technology Workgroup
2. Plan Management Workgroup
3. Consumer Assistance Workgroup

IV. New Business

- A. Re-Alignment of Workgroups to Match Partnership Model-Cindy informed the workgroup of the realignment plans during her update from the Steering Committee. Cindy told the workgroup members that the Exchange Planning Staff will inform them of more details regarding the next steps and the realignment of the workgroups as soon as a decision has been made by the Governor on the Level One Funding Application.

- V. Future Meetings- Cindy informed the workgroup members that future meetings could begin in January 2012 to begin planning efforts for a Federal Exchange however there is not yet a definite answer. Cindy ensured the workgroup member that the Exchange Planning Staff will notify them about future meetings as soon as the information was available. Cindy informed the workgroup members that CCIIO will begin a Federal workgroup with meetings beginning the first week in December. Cindy stated that the Exchange Planning Staff has elected to participate in the Federal Workgroup.

VI. Public Comment

1. The commenter stated that their feelings are that neither side will budge on the issue of an exchange until after the Supreme Court decision has been made in June 2012.
2. The commenter stated that even with the option now being a Federal Partnership the issue is still very political and they do not foresee a change in position.
3. The commenter stated that the opponents are not basing their opinions on logic, it's all about politics.
4. The commenter stated that the Commissioner is a very strong Consumer Advocate and no matter what decision is made, he will do his best to protect the Arkansas Consumer.
5. The commenter stated that they hate to see momentum lost due to stopping the workgroups. The commenter also recommended that once a decision has been made on whether or not the Level One Application will be submitted; the Exchange Planning Staff should hold one big meeting for all of the workgroups combined to announce the next steps.

VII. Questions

1. Why is the first of the year expected to be the beginning process for the next steps?
Response-The Level One Funding application deadline is December 30th, 2011. If the Level One Funding application is not submitted there will not be a Federal Partnership and no funding to continue planning.
2. Will the Fed's be determining eligibility on all State Medicaid plans?
Response-We do not yet have an answer, DHHS thinks it will only determine eligibility for the newly eligible however we are not certain.
3. Will the first million dollar grant run out at the end of the year?
Response-It is estimated that approximately \$177,000 will be remaining at the end of January.
4. Will the state define its own areas or will the Fed's regulate?
Response-That is a question that we can add to our list for CCIIO.
5. Is there a list of which states will participate in the Federal Workgroup meetings?
Response-No, we really don't know what states will participate. The Level One application awards for the September applications are expected to be announced any day now so we may have a better idea after that announcement. We know that there is currently 14 states with authority and are moving on to a

State Exchange and only two states (Florida and Louisiana) have announced that they will have a completely Federal Exchange.

6. What makes the Exchange Planning Staff think that there will be a different result for the December Funding application?

Response-Timing could be the cause of a movement towards a Federal Partnership Option.

DRAFT