

Arkansas Health Benefits Exchange Planning

Small Business/Community Leaders/ Legislators	November 14, 2011	Arkansas Studies Institute Rm. 204	12:00PM –2:00PM
<p>Members Present: Robert Barnes Richard Eden Vic Snyder Dwane Tankersley Kenny Whitlock</p> <p>Staff: Cindy Crone Bruce Donaldson Craig Wilson-ACHI</p>	<p>Members Absent: Ron Boyeskie Jay Chessir Ray Hanley Alan Hughes Barry D. Hyde Annabelle Imber Tuck Gregory Leding Theresia Pennartz Jody Purifoy Amanda Rose Mary Anne Salmon Harold Simpson Jon Woods</p>		

Meeting Summary:

- I. Cindy Crone-AID, opened the meeting. Workgroup members and guests introduced themselves.
- II. **The Small Business Workgroup meeting summary from October 24 was circulated and corrections were noted.** The corrections will be made and the “final” will be posted on the HBE website.
- III. Updates
 - A. Project Report/CCIIO Update – Cindy Crone
 - The requests for re-appropriation of funds through January 29th, 2011 and continuing contract with First Data were approved. The Exchange Planning Staff will be requesting a second No Cost Extension in order to complete the original scope of work, including public hearings across the state about whichever HBE model is determined for Arkansans. The request will be submitted this week.
 - AR comments to the proposed federal Exchange regulations were submitted to CCIIO. The document will be posted on the HBE website for review. Cindy thanked Craig Wilson for preparing the comments to be submitted. Craig reported that the comments largely focused on flexibility for the states, consumer perspective comments from Arkansas Advocates, and Provider comments.
 - The Quarterly report for period July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011 was submitted. The report is over 800 pages and will be posted on the HBE website for review.
 - Bruce attended the NAIC meeting in Maryland on October 31, 2011. He reported that the discussion was largely regarding the “SERFF Program” --which is used for carriers to submit their plans for qualification—as a possible resource for Exchange plan management.
 - Questions from the workgroups were submitted to CMS-CCIIO and the Exchange Planning Staff is awaiting a response. Handouts of the submitted questions were provided for the workgroup members.

- The last date to apply for Level One Funding is December 30, 2011. At this time, the Governor has not approved nor disapproved the submission of the funding request. The Exchange Planning Staff will continue planning in order to be ready for submission in the event that the approval is granted.
- B. Steering Committee Update-Cindy reported that the Steering Committee recommended and the Insurance Commissioner has agreed to put the public hearings on hold until more is known about the Exchange model for Arkansas.
- C. Stakeholder Summit Results/Surgeon General Summit Report-A handout was provided to the workgroup members regarding the Stakeholder Summit that was held on October 11, 2011 at Embassy Suites in Little Rock. Craig Wilson reported that the Surgeon General Summit was held on November 7, 2011 at Arkansas Children's Hospital Chairman's Hall. Cindy reported that the Surgeon General Summit did a nice job of connecting the dots for all the health system improvement efforts currently taking place within the state of Arkansas. She reported that the Insurance Commissioner's message was that a State Exchange is no longer an option for Arkansas; a Federal Partnership or a completely Federally Run Exchange are now the available options. The Insurance Commissioner made a direct plea for support of the Federal Partnership Model Exchange.

IV. New Business

A. Re-Alignment of Work Groups to match Partnership Model

The Steering Committee recommended that the workgroups be realigned to match the Federal Partnership Model. Beginning with the month of December there will be three workgroup meetings and two Steering Committee meetings per month. The new workgroup titles and December meeting dates are as follows:

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| 1. Consumer Assistance Workgroup | December 14 th , 2011 10:00am to 12:00pm |
| 2. Information Technology Workgroup | December 14 th , 2011 2:00pm to 4:00pm |
| 3. Plan Management Workgroup | December 16 th , 2011 9:00am to 1:00pm |

B. Partnership Model

The Federal Partnership model would allow the state to have some control over the Plan Management, Navigator Program and the Outreach and Education Program. A rough estimate of the cost for potentially Arkansas-operated portions of the Partnership Model is five to six million dollars annually.

- C. A recommendation was made to suspend all workgroup meetings for the month of December and to resume workgroup meetings only when more is known about which direction—Federal Partnership or totally Federally operated Exchange—Arkansas will be going. It was further recommended that the Commissioner send a press release announcing that Exchange planning efforts for a State Exchange have ended and that the State will be exploring how to best assist with implementation of the Federal Exchange for Arkansas. Steering Committee Liaison Kenny Whitlock will take this message to the Steering Committee tomorrow.

V. Public Comment/Questions

1. The commenter announced that Andy Allison has been named as Arkansas' Division of Medicaid Services Director. Andy is an OBU graduate and is the current Director of the Division of Health Care Finance for the state of Kansas.
2. The commenter reported that the Supreme Court has issued an order to hear the Florida and the NFIB cases regarding the Individual Health Insurance Mandate and other ACA issues by March 2012, with a decision expected by late June 2012. There will be five and a half hours of oral argument on 4 issues.
3. The commenter stated that the Federal Government will need the Exchange Planning Staff to work with them in the set up of the Federal Exchange. The commenter stated that there could be a debate between the State and the Federal Government. A second commenter stated that it should be a debate between the State and the Consumers.
4. If appropriation is still required with a Federal Partnership model, what makes you think that those opposed will change their minds? *One responder indicated that timing could be the key factor; another responder stated that the idea has to be sold to those opposed; and a third responder stated that logic is not a factor.*
5. Has the general work plan been modified to align with the Federal Partnership?
Responder stated that a modified plan is in the works, however it is not yet complete and no green light has been given for funding submission. The Steering Committee asked for First Data consultants to present a budget, projected revenue loss, and timeline for implementing State options under the Federal Partnership Model, which will be presented at the Steering Committee meeting held November 15, 2011.