Arkansas Health Benefits Planning Exchange

Steering Committee Meeting	October 4, 2011	AR Health Benefits Exchange Planning AID- Hearing Room 1st Floor	3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Members Present:	***Consultants:***	***Members Absent:***
Fred Bean Ed Choate David Deere Kathryn Hazelett-OHIT for Ray Scott Rich Huddleston for Elizabeth Burak Rep. Barry Hyde Annabelle Imber Tuck Joni Jones Dr. Cal Kellogg Dr. Drew Kumpuris Tim Lampe Frank Scott Dr. John Wayne Dawn Zekis for John Selig ***Staff:*** Cindy Crone Britton Kerr Alice Jones Craig Wilson-ACHI	Debbie Hopkins- AFMC ***Guests:*** Dolores Chitwood-NAIFA Rhonda Cunningham-Partners SW Intern Jennifer Flinn-Governors Office Leo Hauser-Bi-Partisan Strategies Melissa Masingill-Delta Dental LaKendra B. Spates-MHSA-UAMS Dwayne Tankersley-NovaSys Health	Patty Barker Deborah Bell Jim Glick Pam Lambert Kevin Ryan David Sodergren Marilyn Strickland Kenny Whitlock Rep. Jon Woods

Meeting Summary:
Items in Bold indicate "action item".

I. Cindy Crone, AID, opened the meeting and welcomed the Steering Committee and guests, who introduced themselves.

II. **The Steering Committee meeting summary from September 20 was approved** as circulated without corrections and will be posted as "final" on the HBE website.

III. Updates

A. UAMS Stakeholder Involvement – Dr. John Wayne reported that the Stakeholders Summit will be held on October 11th at Embassy Suites. He encourages the Steering Committee Members to register and attend. The committee members were also asked to spread the word about the summit. A comment was made that the Community Mental Health Centers will also be holding their Annual Summit on the same date and at the same location. Cindy Crone made the comment that there may be some integration between attendees at the two summits. Dr. John Wayne also announced that public hearings will be held in November and December; however the dates or places have not been established. The plan is to have at least one of the meetings via Interactive Video. He asked the committee members to stay tuned for the hearing dates.

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B. First Data Update – Cindy Crone reported that First Data has been extremely busy preparing final reports and assisting with the September 30 Grant application that did not get submitted. First Data is now continuing preparation on requirement documents that would advance the options for a State, Federal or Facilitated Partnership Exchange.

C. Self-Chartered Health Care Reform Industry Workgroup – Dr. Cal Kellogg reported that a press release was issued encouraging the continued planning of a State Exchange. The Self-Chartered workgroup met after hearing of the decision not to submit the September 30 Grant application. The workgroup will continue to develop strategies to move forward and will have their next meeting within the next two weeks.

D. CCIIO/Exchange Planning Grant Update – Cindy Crone reported that she has provided an overview via written report (handout). The handout also includes the September 26th presentation to legislators per request from committee members.

- Cindy informed the committee members that the Governor stood by earlier communications that he would not sign the letter for the September 30 Grant application without considerable support from the legislature. As a result, the September 30 Grant application was not submitted. The final opportunity for the Level One Funding Grant will be December 30, 2011. It is uncertain whether or not the Exchange Planning Division will move forward with the Grant Application in December. The Level One Funding Application does not require State Authority. Cindy asked that the committee members hold their questions regarding the grant application until the Commissioner arrived. Frank Scott with the Governor's office commented that the Governor's stance and comments regarding the grant application remain unchanged.
- Cindy announced that the No Cost Extension request was approved through January 29, 2012. The workgroup had questions regarding the risk of running out of funds to continue planning before the end of the year.
- Cindy informed the committee members that she as well as Bruce Donaldson, Dan Honey with the Arkansas Insurance Department and Linda Greer with DHS County Operations all attended the CCIIO Grantee Meeting in Arlington VA on September 19 and 20.
- Cindy provided a list of topics covered at that meeting which includes an outline of the Partnership Model.
- Cindy reminded the Steering Committee members that comments regarding both sets of the exchange related regulations are due by the end of October. Craig Wilson is working to prepare those comments to be submitted. Please send him any comments by October 20.

QUESTIONS

1. Will the Federal Funds run out between now and the end of year?

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Response-There is approximately $92,000 in Unobligated Funds. Those funds will cover salaries for Cindy, Bruce and an Administrative Assistant as well as rent and other maintenance and operations expenditures through January 2012.

2. If the Level One Funding Grant application is not submitted in December will the planning efforts stop?

   Response-Yes, likely at best there would be some sort of stop/start. There will be two opportunities in 2012 to apply for Level Two Funding however it is highly unlikely that Arkansas will be prepared to apply if planning efforts are stopped. Also, a Level Two Application requires state authority for a state exchange.

3. Could the money allocated for the Education Campaign be better spent elsewhere?

   Response-The Education campaign has been stopped.

4. Are there any funds remaining that have been earmarked for certain expenses that can be re-appropriated?

   Response-There is a Legislative Committee meeting on Thursday regarding re-appropriation of line items and extending the First Data contract.

E. Surgeon General's Summit- The announcement was made that there will be a Surgeon General's Summit held on November 7, 2011. The half day Summit will take place at Arkansas Children's Hospital and will be broadcast across the state. There will be four groups participating to discuss issues related to the Healthcare Reform. Additional information will be provided in the near future.

IV. Workgroup Reports/Recommendations-Workgroup Liaisons

A. Navigators

1. Healthcare Providers Workgroup-Dr. Kumpuris reported that the workgroup recommendations regarding the Navigator Program were to implement standardized requirements for the licensure/certification process. The workgroup felt strongly that the bar be set high for becoming a Navigator keeping in mind that it could be lowered over time if deemed necessary. Cultural Competency was also a factor that the workgroup felt needs consideration. The workgroup recommended that the AID be responsible for monitoring the Navigator Program and the competency level of the Navigators. The recommendation was made that there should be a training process that consisted of online training options as well as the use of Community Health Centers. The suggestion was made that the roll-out of the Navigator program be

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gradual, similar to that of a pilot program. The question was asked "Will Navigator's require liability coverage?"

2. Outreach Education Workgroup-Fred Bean reported that the workgroup was very comfortable with the consultant's recommendations regarding the Navigator Program. One of the specific concerns of the workgroup members was that there be some type of standard set of evaluation processes for the Navigator Program. The recommendation was made that the Exchange literature be written on a literacy level (6th to 8th grade level) that was easily understood by those that will be accessing the exchange.
3. State Agency Workgroup- The workgroup reported that recommendations were made that the Navigator Certification process require a fee. The fee requirement could potentially be related to background checks. The timeline of the Navigator Program was a key concern for the workgroup members. The workgroup recommended that there be a support system in place for the Navigators prior to the program implementation. The workgroup recommended that there be a certification and decertification process for the Navigators. The length of certification was also a concern of the workgroup members. The question was raised whether or not to allow individuals (vs. organizations) to serve as Navigators as well as whether or not Navigators will serve in any type of proxy role for consumers.
4. Consumer Workgroup-Dolores Chitwood reported that the Consumer Workgroup had similar concerns to those mentioned by the Healthcare Provider workgroup. Dolores reported that the workgroup felt that the Navigator needed to have some degree of cultural competency and that the Navigator role should be to act as an educator. Dolores reported that the workgroup felt strongly that the bar should not be set too high for becoming a Navigator, particularly as it relates to some of the rural areas.

V. New Business

A. No Level One Funding Application-What now? – Commissioner Bradford thanked the Committee members for their countless hours of effort and hard work. Commissioner Bradford told the Committee that their efforts have not been in vain and he is moving forward with the efforts to plan a State run Exchange. Commissioner Bradford asked the Committee members to join him in continued efforts and encouraged the group to contact their legislative members as well as fellow Arkansans to discuss this issue. Commissioner Bradford informed the committee members that the Governor is not asking for a majority of legislators to sign the letter needed for the Level One Grant Application; rather he is asking for a representative number of people that took a stand against the issue to inform of their support for continues exchange planning. The commissioner informed the group that the options are to have a Federal ran Exchange, a State run Exchange or a Partnership model. The Commissioner stated that he plans to move forward with planning for a State run exchange with the fall back position being a Partnership Model. The commissioner stated that the debate should be how the funds will be spent and how the planning moves forward rather than whether or not planning will continue.

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COMMENTS/ISSUES/QUESTIONS

1. Federal Exchange will likely be more expensive than an Arkansas Exchange.
2. Federal Exchange can convert to Arkansas Exchange; however it will not be easy to secure funds to be able to convert.
3. Possibility of losing regulation of insurance.
4. Potential loss of billions of dollars as well as Arkansas jobs.
5. Will the deadlines be deferred?
   Response-No, the Federal Government will implement an exchange in every state by January 1, 2014 with open enrollment beginning October 1, 2013. It is the law and the dates will not be moved. The only additional information conveyed is that there may be an opportunity to receive federal funds for Partnership models; however there will likely be a fee collected from Arkansas carriers to pay for the Federal Exchange.
6. If a united effort was made by all the workgroups to get involved in the politics of this issue would that make the situation worse?
   Response-Commissioner Bradford responded that he did not feel it would make the situation worse. The goal is to educate the public on the exchange and it is important for the general public to be informed and that their voices are heard.
7. What are we looking for in terms of Legislative Approval?
   Response-Commissioner Bradford responded that all is needed is for the Legislature to give an indication that they want to move forward with the planning efforts.
8. Commenter stated that "politics is local" and that he feels we need to get out there and educate the local individuals and businesses on the Exchange and the consequences of having a Federal Exchange verses a State Exchange.
9. Commenter stated that the mode of opposition is to talk about more controversial issues rather than talk about the issue at hand (State or Federal Exchange). Commenter stressed the importance of getting the message out there of what the exchange is and what a Federal Exchange verses a State Exchange will mean.
10. Commenter stated that Legislature does not understand the complexity of exchange development and how critical it is that time is not wasted in moving forward with the planning efforts.

B. Topics for October Workgroup Meetings –The topics for the October workgroup meetings will be "Political Issues and Needs", "What Next? And strategies for moving forward" and to also finish any questions that the workgroups were not able to discuss in the previous meeting.

C. Exchange Planning Strategy- The strategy moving forward is to talk to the locals about the Exchange and to prepare a strong Planning Application with a reasonable budget with funding to carry through February 2013 to be submitted in December 2011. The open letter suggestion and public hearings are other opportunities to get the word out to the public about the Exchange. The message is to let the public know that we must make a decision

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whether or not to have a State run Exchange and the pros and cons of a State Exchange. Cindy asked for a group to work on talking points before the next meeting. Cal Kellogg will send talking points to Cindy and she will distribute to the group for consideration at the next meeting.

VI. Next Meeting is October 18, 2011; 3:00 – 5:00 AID Hearing Room. The workgroup responses and recommendations not covered today will be discussed.

VII. Public Comment Period- Cindy Crone opened the floor for public comments. None were made. Cindy thanked the Steering Committee for their hard work and asked them to continue their efforts.

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