

CT Health Care Reform Advisory Board

Business & Exchange Subcommittee

Summary of April 22, 2010 Meeting

Members Present: Rick Willard (Chair), Leadership Council of the National Federation of Independent Businesses; Deputy Commissioner Cristine Vogel, Department of Public Health (DPH); Paul Lombardo, CT Insurance Department (CID).

Others Present: Alexis Fedorjaczenko, DPH; Joe Mendyka, DPH; and Barbara Parks Wolf, Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

The meeting began at 12:15 pm.

Deputy Commissioner Cristine Vogel suggested to the group that in addition to sending Advisory Board recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly, it would be beneficial to have recommendations that can be used by the Health Care Reform Cabinet recently established by Governor Rell by Executive Order. The Cabinet is charged with implementing federal health care reform requirements in Connecticut and is working now to meet some immediate deadlines. To provide timely recommendations, it was agreed that subcommittee would develop recommendations by May 20th and sent them to the Advisory Board for consideration at the June meeting.

Health Insurance Exchange

Rick Willard asked who defines the four levels of health insurance products (bronze, silver, and gold, platinum) in the exchange. Paul Lombardo explained that the products are defined in terms of actuarial value. To the extent that the products satisfy the actuarial value, they can have differing benefit designs. What is not yet clear is the definition of actuarial value.

Paul Lombardo noted that another large question is what Connecticut will decide in terms of keeping current state mandated benefits above the minimum level of benefits mandated under health care reform. The State is responsible for any subsidies for benefits above the minimum defined by the federal government.

Rick Willard asked how the Exchange will be affected by interstate compacts. Paul Lombardo explained that there are common guidelines and rules requiring that whoever purchases from these states will have the same options. Only adjacent states may develop compacts. It is unclear how the mandated benefits in each state are reconciled in a multi-state compact.

Deputy Commissioner Christine Vogel identified the important high level decisions needed in developing an Exchange:

- Governance structure: State or non-profit entity
- One or two entities: For individuals and for small businesses
- Whether insurance rules must be the same both inside and outside the Exchange.

Next Meeting

Due to low attendance, the subcommittee will reconvene next week to develop recommendations on the health insurance exchange and provide information on the impact of health care reform on employers and businesses.

Rich Willard will draft proposed recommendations for consideration. Alexis Fedorjaczenko will provide information on the Utah Exchange and the Massachusetts Connector. Joe Mendyka will provide information on wellness grants for small businesses.

Next meeting: the week of April 26th, to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.