

CT Health Care Reform Advisory Board

Health Care System Reform Subcommittee

Summary of March 31, 2010 Meeting

Members Present: James Cox-Chapman, MD, ProHealth Physicians (Chair); Deputy Commissioner Cristine Vogel, Department of Public Health (DPH); Robert Dakers, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Amy Lazzaro; CT Insurance Department (CID), Paul Lombardo, CID; Tom Woodruff, State Comptrollers Office.

The meeting began at 1:00 pm.

Deputy Commissioner Cristine Vogel reviewed the charge to the subcommittee: to address issues in the new federal health care reform law related to cost-containment, payment reform and system performance improvement. The goal for the Advisory Board is to provide final recommendations in a single report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before January 1, 2011. It was noted that the Board has expressed an interest in providing a final report sooner than that deadline. The group was encouraged to keep the Guiding Principles in their Interim Report in mind as it does its work

Dr. James Cox-Chapman led the group in a discussion of the topics they plan to address. The following topics were agreed upon:

1. Understanding the drivers of health care costs
2. Efficiencies (maximizing quality and delivery care at a lower cost) – consider if current regulations on scope of practice inhibit efficiencies in the delivery of health care services and assure that practitioners are functioning at the top of their training
3. National effectiveness comparative research and prevention – what role should state government play?
4. Primary care infrastructure
5. Reimbursements for providers (that adequately covers realistic costs) – reduce inefficiencies in the health care system through appropriate reimbursement
6. Payment reform
7. Patient behavior – patient responsibility – behavior changes and wellness
8. Tort reform – gather information – consider proposing a demonstration project

A focus on medical home was also suggested. The group decided that since the Sustinet Board was addressing this issue that they would review and comment on their findings. A possible presentation on medical home by Sustinet was suggested.

Paul Lombardo provided an overview of the work CID is currently doing to respond to the state insurance department's responsibilities mandated in the new law. He offered that the subcommittee piggy back on the findings of this effort.

The group agreed to begin its work by exploring drivers of costs. Dr. Cox-Chapman will distribute findings from the Dartmouth Atlas. He also suggested that the group consider a presentation by Atlas. Bob Dakers will share information from McKinsey Global Institute which examines health care cost drivers. The group will also consider Medicare Advantage cost data, commercial insurance information and data on Medicaid.

Subcommittee members will then synthesize the information they collect and review and present their findings to the Advisory Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.