

## WAHA Health Policy Education Minutes

April 17, 2006

Attending: Kerri Lenderman; Ralph Hill; Dr. Don Rappe; Gil Thurston; Sue Sharpe; Linda McCarthy; Suzanne Trimmingham; Chuck Beard; Richard Dietz; Chris Phillips; Caroline Chapman; Victoria Doerper

Absent: Dr Erick Laine; Dr. Dave Lynch; Ward Nelson

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW UP
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were adopted</li> </ul>	
<b>Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Small Business Insurance Access Bill:</b> Richard handed out the final version of the bill. Bill's intention is to provide a subsidy to lower income employees working for employer with under 50 employees. Sliding scale fee that is the same as Basic Health Program for insurance plans that are actuarially equivalent to Basic Health. Employer will pay portion of premium. Initial period beginning July 1, 2007 will cover 2000 employees. Chris suggested that WAHA position itself with outreach for the 'lottery'. Position ourselves with small businesses to improve coverage in Whatcom County. Potential partnership with the chamber. Healthcare Authority will be responsible for administrating. Victoria said program had been done before with adult care, interesting to show how to show work is "actuarially equivalent"...work to get everything by June before the rush</li> <li><b>Rick Larsen Medicare D meeting:</b> group invited to discuss Part D and for Rep. Larsen to show amendment to Part D, importation of drugs, extending the deadline, and working with pharmaceuticals. Part D is helping a lot of people, although there are still problems.</li> <li>Sue contacted by Senator Murray, will be doing town hall meeting in Bellingham at Senior Center on the 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-3:15. Asking for ideas of people on a panel. Put forward Gil, Dave Lynch(physician),</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sue will pursue the HCA, begin by speaking with Pat Rowe at the Chamber.</li> <li>Gil suggested present to the HAS committee to now follow</li> <li><b>Kerri</b> will send reports</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Jennings (SHIBA), Ward Nelson (pharmacist), representative from NWRC. Goal to keep attention on issue and let people know the deadline will not be extended. Open to the public. This will be a good opportunity to get Murray’s staff on board with what we do.</li> <li>• <b>Meeting with Cheryl Andrada, from Rick Larsen’s staff:</b> Cheryl Andrada for Health Policy from DC office. Met with the staff and WAHA seen as a resource, will continue to keep in contact with her and the rest of Rep. Larsen’s staff.</li> <li>• <b>Meeting with HCA on SB6459:</b> Talk about Communities Connect Meeting. Work to get Senator Kaiser in the meeting with HCA, May 2 at 2:30. Sue, Kristin West, Sam Salinger, and Sen. Kaiser will meet with Steve Hill (head of HCA) to talk about program. Lay out how to go about grant program.</li> <li>• <b>Budget Proviso:</b> Sue sent an email to get the group back on track for this project. Hart Hodges put together model and see what the effect of tax credit will be.</li> </ul>	<p>to Victoria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look to write an article that links the likelihood of fewer family practice physician’s due to low reimbursement. Likely to be more legislation in this area.</li> </ul>
Medicare Study Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sue put together Medicare Study Group charge and purpose. Will work to better understand the factors that are negatively impacting Medicare Access and ways to improve policy and access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <i>Potential areas/range of issues to focus on:</i> Evidence based practices, reimbursement rates, Medicare Modernization Act, privatization changing the face of Medicare, allowing people to buy into Medicare, chronic disease management, work with integrating physician care and mental health-more integration across practices; increasing change in CMS work-increasing unfunded mandates and administrative cost burden;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Should focus not only problems but where there is opportunity for growth. Model used before in Med Mal was helpful, get everyone on same page with background materials. Briefing packet was helpful to give people sense of issue.</li> <li>• Medicare driver is to get something done this year. Look at it in more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create group membership then develop a plan. Potentially a multi stage project. Focus on access piece that gets us there by the end of the year-be clear on the timeframe to get things done. Prioritize the issues</li> </ul>

<p>Medicare Study Group proposal, cont</p>	<p>comprehensive way. Must move quickly and stay focused as this is a core issue that brought WAHA together. Is timeline ambitious enough? Budget reconciliation coming by January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Make up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cleve from Haggan (pharmacist)-Part D</li> <li>○ Senator Cantwell's office</li> <li>○ Build in public official</li> <li>○ Hospital, Center for Senior Health, different financing than private-Matt Groenig</li> <li>○ CMS regional person? Provider relations, reimbursement specialists, information coordination. <b>Kerri</b> will put out the idea to see if participate initially to focus group</li> <li>○ Barbara Jones- could help for drafting proposals piece</li> <li>○ Gil will contact AARP in Seattle to ask for information</li> <li>○ Make sure all willing to participate and Sue will work on work plan with Richard. Asking participants to send any resources they have for the briefing materials</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask Dr. Kristin Crosby for briefing materials to see what the WSMA is doing about this issue.</li> <li>• <b>Richard and Sue</b> will work together on draft work plan, pull group together in next couple of weeks and will talk to legislative aides to figure out timing</li> <li>• <b>Kerri</b> has CMS summary on MMA, will send to Victoria.</li> </ul>
<p>Other Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WAHA Strategy Survey: please complete hard copy and fax to Caroline</li> </ul>	

Next Meeting: **Monday May 15**