



WVAHC Reform News

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Volume 5

Summer 2010

Issue 3

Health Care Reform Summit to Be Held in Charleston

The Health Care Reform Summit is scheduled for August 30th and 31st at the Charleston Marriott. The Summit brings some of the most insightful experts on health care reform in the country to Charleston.

Ken Thorpe, for example, is a health care economist from Emory University. He is also the architect of the Vermont comprehensive reforms. While Massachusetts gets most of the national attention for state reforms, Vermont is actually a more substantial reform. Vermont adopted chronic disease management initiatives as a means of controlling costs, which is something that is missing from the Massachusetts reform.

Jocelyn Moore, Senator Rockefeller's chief public policy staff member, played an important role in the development of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act — what we are calling *Americare*. Jocelyn will be speaking on the future of health care reform, and what we should expect next. This should be a very insightful presentation.

Kathleen Stoll, the deputy director for Families USA

one of the most respected national organizations that represents the interest of consumers, will provide an overview of *Americare* and how it will impact consumers.

Nora Super, a national AARP staff person, will discuss the impact that *Americare* will have on Medicare. This is one of the most misrepresented areas of the law. It's not just that there are no death panels, but the "cuts" in Medicare are a reduction in the growth in Medicare from 6.8 percent to 5.3 percent.

Dr. Fred Ralston, the new President of the American College of Physicians, which represents internists — physicians who specialize in the prevention and treatment of illnesses in adults — will provide a physicians perspective on the national reform law as the dinner speaker Monday evening.

Brian Rosman is the research director for Health Care for All in Massachusetts. Brian will speak about the experience of Massachusetts and their expansion of health care to nearly all the state's citizens. The Connector, a health exchange where small businesses and individuals can purchase health insurance, played a critical role in expanding insurance coverage in Massachusetts. Brian's presentation will focus on the potential of a health exchange to lower cost and improve quality. Understanding exchanges is important as West Virginia moves to establish its own exchange under a federal grant. Our exchange is projected to begin July 1, 2011.

A complete schedule of the Health Care Reform Summit is listed on page 3. You can register for the conference on the web site wvhealthreform.wordpress.com/. The cost of the conference is only \$125 for both August 30th and 31st, and includes lunch on both days and dinner on Monday evening. This is quite a bargain, so *please register early*.

WVAHC Annual Meeting Is October 30th

WVAHC's 5th annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th from 10 am to 3 pm at the Café Cimino in Sutton, West Virginia. All WVAHC members are welcomed to come and celebrate last year's historic accomplishments and help plan for next year's activities.

If you plan to attend, and plan to stay for lunch, please contact Perry Bryant at 304-344-1673 or pbryant@wvahc.org in order to arrange for the group lunch. We hope to see you on October 30th. It should be an enjoyable and productive meeting.

Town Meetings a Success

Thanks to a grant from the Benedum Foundation, WVAHC has conducted town meetings across the state. Meetings were held in Parkersburg, Wheeling, Morgantown, Elkins, Shepherdstown, Beckley, Charleston and Huntington.

Additionally, thanks to the effort of WVAHC member, Renny Smith, there were two successful meetings at the Jefferson and Berkeley county senior centers. And thanks to the effort of Fred Tanner a successful meeting was held at the Raleigh County Commission on Aging. "We made a special effort to reach out to senior citizens and others who are covered by Medicare. There is so much misinformation and deliberate misrepresentation about Medicare and what is in fact and what is not. WVAHC developed specific material for senior citizens and held meetings in senior centers during the day," said Perry Bryant, Executive Director of WVAHC.

During the town meetings, citizens were, by in large, appreciative of receiving objective information. "People were most interested in what happens this

year. When, and how, can I enroll my son or daughter on my health insurance plan? Will I qualify for the new, national, high risk pool? When can I enroll? (Enrollment is occurring now at www.healthcare.gov, a very good web site.) Concerns that were frequently expressed included whether small business will be required to provide health insurance to their employees (the answer is no); whether there will be enough primary care physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide services to the thousands of newly insured West Virginians (the answers are: we need to increase the number of primary care providers and ensure that their time and talents are used in the most effective manner); and whether people will be forced to drop their current insurance," stated Bryant.

At the town meetings, WVAHC's 32-page booklet, *A Guide to National Health Care Reform and What It Means to West Virginia*, was distributed. This month WVAHC has updated the booklet (on our web site at www.wvahc.org) to include explanations of the new regulations on the preventive measures that must be covered by new insurance policies, and the limits of what businesses can do and maintain their status as a grandfathered plan, and therefore exempt from some of the reforms.

"The more that people understand Americare, the more supportive they have for the Act. Eliminating some of the confusion, particularly for senior citizens, will continue to be a high priority for WVAHC. If there hasn't been a town meeting in your town, or if there is a group that you want us to address, please don't hesitate to contact us, either at 304-344-1673 or pbryant@wvahc.org," concluded Bryant.

It's not possible to list all the people who worked hard to make the town meetings a success, but a few of the people deserve some recognition. They include: Walt Auvil and Sue Thorn for the Parkersburg meeting; Sue Thorn and James Guy for Wheeling; Barbara Fleischauer and Diane Market in Morgantown; Nathan Miller in Elkins; Lynn Yellow in Shepherdstown; Mick Bates in Beckley; Gary Zuckett in Charleston; and Dr. Harry Tweel in Huntington. Thanks to all who helped to make these meetings so successful.



**West Virginians
for
Affordable Health Care**

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Agenda for the Health Care Reform Summit

Monday, August 30, 2010

- 8:00 am Registration
 9:00 am Welcome
Governor Joe Manchin, III
 9:15 am A Video Message from
 Senator Jay Rockefeller
 9:25 am Conference Plenary
“An Overview of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” *Kathleen Stoll, Deputy Executive Director, Families U.S.A.*
 10:40 am Break
 10:55 am Conference Plenary
“Lessons from Massachusetts”
Brian Rosman, Research Director, Health Care for All
 12:10 pm Lunch
 1:10 pm Conference Plenary
“What Health Care Reform Means for Medicaid”
Nancy Atkins, Commissioner, WV Bureau of Medical Services
Panel: Kathleen Stoll, Deputy Executive Director, Families U.S.A., Dr. Renate Pore, Health Policy Analyst, West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy
Moderator: Senator Dan Foster, M.D.
 2:10 pm Break
 2:25 pm Conference Plenary
“What Health Care Reform Means for Medicare” *Nora Super, Director, Federal Government Relations, Health and Long-Term Care, AARP*
 3:55 pm Break
 4:10 pm Conference Plenary
“Cost Containment through Prevention”
Mr. Richard Hamburg, Deputy Director, Trust for America’s Health
 5:10 pm Break with Refreshments
 6:00 pm Evening Plenary
“What Health Care Reform Means for Primary Care”
Fred Ralston, MD, FACP, President, American College of Physicians
 7:00 pm Reception for Fred Ralston, MD, FACP, President, American College of Physicians

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

- 8:00 am Registration
 8:30 am Conference Plenary
“What Health Care Reform Means for WV: Health and Wholeness”
Dr. Kenneth Thorpe, Health Care Economist, Emory University
 9:30 am Break
 9:45 am Conference Plenary
“What Health Care Reform Means for Children: Quality of Care” *Jocelyn Guyer, Co-Executive Director, Center for Children and Families (CCF); Senior Researcher, Georgetown University Health Policy Institute*
 10:45 am Break
 11:00 am Conference Plenary
“What Health Care Reform Means for WV: Reform Activity Currently Occurring in WV”
Panel: Roger Chaufourmier, CEO of CSI Solutions, LLC; Louise Reese, Executive Director, West Virginia Primary Care Association; Jeremiah Samples, West Virginia Insurance Commission; and Shannon Landrum, Research Coordinator of GO HELP.
Moderator: Perry Bryant, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
 12:30 pm Lunch
“No Greater Legacy - The Hovah Underwood Award”
Award Recipient: *Senator Jay Rockefeller*
Accepted by Jocelyn Moore, Legislative Director and Staff Director of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care for Senator Jay Rockefeller
Presenter: Rev. Dennis Sparks, Executive Director, West Virginia Council of Churches
 1:30 pm Conference Plenary
“Health Care Reform and Mental Health Parity” *Bill TenHoor, Senior Consultant, Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), Inc. Healthcare Solutions*
 2:30 pm Break
 2:45 pm **“The Future of Health Care Reform”**
Jocelyn Moore, Legislative Director and Staff Director of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care for Senator Jay Rockefeller
 3:45 pm Evaluation
 4:00 pm Adjourn

Membership Form

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

An extensive education campaign on health care reform is essential and I want to help with this important campaign.

Enclosed is my contribution for \$50____ \$75____ \$100____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address : _____

(Please print clearly)

I would like to volunteer for WVAHC. Please contact me.

Please return your membership form to:

WVAHC, 1544 Lee Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25311.

--Thank you!