

Citizen Driven Health Reform

Overview

The Health Care Reform Task Force is partnering with a group of foundations and community organizations to engage Minnesotans in discussion about the future of health care in Minnesota and to make Minnesotans more informed consumers of health care. This document roughly outlines the engagement plan being proposed based on conversations between Commissioner Jesson and her staff and the Bush Foundation.

The Task Force will set overarching goals for this work by articulating a set of questions they hope will be addressed through this process, identifying key communities and sectors they want to see engaged and by approving the outline of the engagement plan as presented in this concept paper. They will not direct the day to day work of executing the engagement plan.

Funding for this work will be provided by a group of Minnesota-based foundations including the Bush Foundation, the Blandin Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation. Conversations are underway with a variety of other potential funding partners who have expressed interest in this work.

The Citizens League will be the “host” organization for much of this work, managing the process, hiring staff and consultants to coordinate the project, and taking responsibility for building a broader coalition of organizations that will be able to reach out to all the communities and businesses we hope to engage. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and TakeAction Minnesota have already been recruited to participate in this work. The Citizens League will be accountable to the funders for carrying out the work according to the agreed-upon plan.

The timeline for this work begins immediately and runs through the implementation of reforms in 2014. The first phase (described below) leads up to the regional meetings of the Task Force to be held in the summer of 2012.

Goals

1. Educate Minnesota health care consumers and businesses about changes being made to Minnesota’s health care system and reform proposals that are on the table
2. Engage Minnesotans and businesses in discussions about their vision for the future health of Minnesota
3. Provide the Task Force with input on reforms so that proposals coming out of the Task Force are grounded in the interests of consumers and businesses

Deliverables for early 2012

1. Educational materials that are vetted by a philosophically diverse group of advisors to ensure the unassailable fairness and accuracy of our presentations, workshops, etc.
 - Some materials will be for use in the meetings described below, some will be available for use by anyone (fact sheets, tool kits for facilitating your own health reform conversation, etc.)
2. A series of community meetings (probably in the 30-40 range) across the state that take place February-May that provide participants with some training/education, give them the opportunity to discuss health care with each other in a thoughtful, facilitated way, and gather from them feedback on reform ideas and responses to questions posed by the Task Force.
 - Some of these will be conducted “centrally” by the Citizens League, while others will be conducted by partner organizations that give us access into particular communities we want to reach
3. Community meetings in the summer that lead up to the Task Force regional meetings (and taking place in the communities surrounding those regional meetings), and that are intended to ensure thoughtful, well-informed input from a broad cross-section of the population during the open comment period.
4. A report from these meetings outlining themes that emerged from the citizen conversations
5. Some public testing of the input reflected in the report, through polling, focus groups, a citizen jury, or other process.
6. A group of participants in these community meetings that have agreed to play an ongoing citizen advisor role with the Task Force, making themselves available to provide feedback and respond to questions from the Task Force as it prepares its recommendations.

Timeline

January 2012

- Finalize engagement plan and budget
- Organize partner groups for execution of the plan
- Develop materials and design the meetings
- Hire project managers, facilitators, logistics coordinators, etc.

February-May 2012

- Conduct citizen meetings around the state

June-July 2012

- Conduct citizen meetings around the Task Force regional meetings
- Deliver preliminary report to Task Force members
- Turn out participants in the citizen meetings to provide testimony at the Task Force regional meetings

August 2012

- Deliver final report to Task Force members
- Provide Task Force with a way to engage some subset of participants as citizen advisors

January 5, 2012