

DRAFT
Safety Net Advisory Council
Highlights from January 14, 2009

Safety Net Advisory Council's Charge: *The Safety Net Advisory Council (SNAC) provides the Governor, the Director of DHS, the OHPR Administrator, the Oregon Health Fund Board, the Oregon Health Policy Commission (OHPC) and the Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) with specific policy recommendations for the provision of safety net services for vulnerable populations who experience barriers to accessing care.*

Meeting Goal: Complete Work Plan, Discuss impact of economy and elections

SNAC Members Present – Priscilla Lewis, Craig Hostetler, Beryl Fletcher, Tracy Gratto, Vanetta Abdelatif, Abby Sears

Guests – Lori Lambert, Jeanette, Ellen Lowe, Nicole Stein-Bumgardner

Staff - Marian Blankenship, Joel Young, Nicole Merrithew

November Highlights were reviewed and accepted.

REL – voluntary uniform standards: Lori Lambert provided information about an upcoming meeting sponsored by Qcorp and co-sponsored by the OAHHS, seeking to convene relevant stakeholders to achieve consensus around the benefit of adopting a statewide voluntary standard for REL categories and methodologies. She underscored the fact that there is lots of anecdotal evidence around disparities by race and ethnicity but insufficient hard data. **SNAC members agreed that co-sponsoring this meeting is a good fit for the SNAC and that Marian will be the point person in coordinating with Qcorp.**

Economic Dashboard data – DRAFT: Nicole walked the council through the indicators that she was able to prepare.

- Medicaid monthly by county
- Oregon unemployment rates monthly by county

- Uninsured (OPS every two years)
- Charity Care – possibly monthly but likely quarterly

The council discussed these data points. Discussed Charity care vs Bad debt measure. Nicole clarified that for monthly reporting, both measures are rolled together to report “uncompensated care”. It was suggested that charity care should be broken out. The Council agreed that monthly reporting is too frequent – quarterly or even annually makes more sense. The council was reminded of the original intent for the request - that basic economic information be compiled as a way to track real-time economic fluctuations and the potential impact on demand. The council also discussed the value of the information and suggested that we can’t simply monitor demand without also speaking to capacity. We need some way of capturing or diagramming the “hydraulics”.

The council agreed that this discussion should be referred to the SNAC data committee for further development.

Elevator Speech: The council reviewed the elevator speech and provided feedback. There was discussion surrounding its emphasis on the “core” safety net and whether that is the message we want to send. The point was made that the elevator speech should be aligned with the policies the council is pursuing and that it cannot be “all things to all people”. Council members agreed that it would be ideal to have different versions for different audiences.

SNAC members agreed to reflect further on the elevator speech and provide suggestions electronically.

The Council took another look at the revised principles and made additional suggestions – on the whole, they need to be more explicit and clearly stated. **Marian will incorporate feedback and send back out to the council for response.**

Work plan: Council members discussed the value of pursuing a legislative vehicle for the safety net stability fund – whether it is a viable strategy given the economic climate. The group ultimately decided that it is important to be bold – especially because of the current economy. OPCA has already developed a “placeholder” for the legislation. **Marian will coordinate with Jennifer Pratt.**

Council members discussed opportunities presented by the federal stimulus plan. There is a strong likelihood of substantial resources be directed toward HIT. Abby emphasized the importance of aligning to be ready for the opportunity. Abby stated that the federal government is tying workforce development and Health Information Technology very closely together. There are other resource opportunities (AHRQ) that may be a good fit for the SNAC work. **Abby is willing to help develop this strategy. Marian will work with Abby to convene a smaller workgroup to develop the ideas.**

Concern was expressed regarding the council's legislative strategies being "too reactive" and not coordinated. **A suggestion was made to convene an ad-hoc legislative committee to help guide the work.**

Staff will continue to track and share legislative bills and issues as they arise.

Next Steps:

- **SNAC will co-sponsor voluntary uniform standard of REL meeting. Marian will coordinate with Qcorp**
- **Economic Dashboard document will be passed to SNAC data committee – Nicole and Marian will coordinate**
- **Marian will incorporate revisions to Work plan and Principles and Council members will provide feedback**
- **Council members will provide written responses to the DRAFT elevator speech**
- **Marian will coordinate with OPCA for stability fund Bill**
- **Sub-group will be convened to develop strategies for capturing opportunities around HIT**

Meeting adjourned:

SNAC Meetings:

See January 2009 Calendar

**800 NE Oregon Street, Portland
Portland**