



Thursday, September 23, 2010

Hosted by AARP Kentucky – Louisville, KY

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance: Dean Johnson, Bruce Scott, Audrey Darville, Richard Heine, Darlene Eakin, Luke Barlowe, Pat Delahanty, Anne Joseph, Harriet Seiler, Kay Tillow, Tahisha Rawlins, Scott Wegenast, Steve Shannon, Sheila Schuster, Christin Miller, Jodi Mitchell, Bob Gray,

Guest: Ben Keeton, Editor-In-Chief, Medical News

Participating via Conference Call: Amanda Heuser, Mary Nicholson, Anne Marie Regan, Heidi Schissler, Elaine Russell, Tonya Chang, Lisa Rice

Jodi Mitchell called the meeting to order with introductions by all in attendance. The meeting summary for the August 12th meeting was reviewed with no questions or revisions.

Stakeholder Report

- Tahisha Rawlins and Scott Wegenast welcomed all to the AARP Kentucky Office. AARP is working on health reform implementation, specifically targeting individuals who are homebound. Their goal is to equip consumers with objective information.
- AARP is working to keep Social Security strong. AARP is part of an inter-generational alliance of groups representing both older adults and children called Generations United. The group is very concerned about the current debate on Social Security and reducing the federal deficit.
- Tahisha and Scott added their gratitude for holding the meeting in Louisville and suggested rotating meeting locations.

Health Reform

- Jodi Mitchell reiterated the need for feedback on what information KVH stakeholders are looking for related to health reform implementation and a state-operated website for greater transparency. A question was raised about whether Kentucky is applying for all available funding opportunities. The following suggestions were made for inclusion on a health reform website:
 - a listing of all funding opportunities in the health reform law, identify those that applications have been submitted, and provide rationale for why Kentucky didn't apply.
 - ability of individuals to email questions and submit comment/feedback.
 - engage consumers in opportunities for dialogue.
 - staff responsibilities/contact information

- The group discussed these additional health reform implementation areas of interest:
 - Appropriateness for Kentucky (i.e Medical Home Grant)
 - Mental Health Parity in health benefit plan designs
 - State/federal preemption
 - Waiver programs focused on community-based services and options for the elderly and for individuals with disabilities
 - Interest in coordinated care/managed care
 - Racial/Ethnic disparities
- Concern relayed about insurance companies dropping child-only policies and steps to ensure that all kids are covered
- Regulation of insurance companies to meet requirements of PPACA and rate reviews
- DOI draft legislation – it was suggested that groups with a national counterpart consult with them with regard to reviewing proposed language on consumer protections.
- The KVH health reform web page continues to be updated and is a good resource to share with others.
- Jodi Mitchell reminded stakeholders that there is an opportunity to comment on federal rulemaking related to implementation of health insurance exchanges. Due to HHS by October 4, 2010

There was a concern about premium increases and Bob Gray explained the rate review process from his experience with the Attorney General's office. Insurance companies must file proposals for rate increases with the Dept. of Insurance. The suggestion was made that this review process needs to be more transparent. DOI received a \$1 Million grant for rate review actuarial support.

KVH has met with key legislators, including the Chair of the House Health and Welfare Committee and the Chair of the House Banking and Insurance Committee.

Speakers Bureau/Outreach – KVH is responding to requests to speak on health reform and what it means for Kentuckians. A list of events where KVH has exhibited or spoken at was included with the meeting materials. KVH is supporting the “We the People” Town Hall meeting in Owensboro, KY as a community outreach activity.

- Dean Johnson suggested that KVH stakeholders participate in Tea Party activities with our issue brief to refute some of the fallacies that are being reported. He volunteered to attend a future event.
- KVH will continue to be sensitive to the political rhetoric – particularly gearing up to the November 2nd elections. The coalition has not and will not take an absolute pro or con position on the health reform law, but will continue to share objective information about its implementation and the effects on Kentuckians.

- Polling shows that citizens agree with individual provisions of the law – particularly the consumer protections - but when asked about the bill, they often state that they are opposed to it.
- More personal stories about the impact of the law are needed!

Amanda Heuser and Mary Nicholson provided local leader updates. Amanda is meeting with providers, community partners, and community programs. She indicated that some are concerned with political ties in relation to health reform. Overall, she has received positive feedback. Mary indicated that most of the questions that she is receiving on health reform result from uncertainty about what is covered.

Medicaid Cost Containment Task Force

- KVH is posting agendas and materials on the KVH web site under “Our Issues”
- Sheila Schuster provided a recap of the September 22 meeting that focused on Long Term Care (Lewin Group Report) and the Chamber of Commerce. The November 16 meeting is an open meeting for the Task Force to receive public comment.
- Recommendations from the Task Force are due in December. It is likely that these will address efforts to achieve efficiencies such as:
 - Optional services
 - Provider Reimbursement
 - Chronic disease management
 - Expanded use of managed care
- Also will focus on balancing the budget and may look more closely at pharmacy costs.

Revision of KVH Priorities

- Jodi Mitchell recapped previous discussions related to setting 2011 KVH Priorities. It was suggested that the coalition focus on education on the health reform law.
- It was suggested that KVH address ethnic and racial disparities.
- There was a discussion regarding a possible increase in the cigarette tax. Tobacco control experts indicated that there is no momentum for new taxes and tobacco control advocacy groups are not mounting a campaign. However, there is an effort underway to begin the legislative process to pass a comprehensive statewide smoke-free policy. Momentum on local efforts also needs to continue to be strengthened. A coalition will be circulating a resolution and requesting KVH support.
 - There are currently 27 smoke-free localities in Kentucky.
- In discussing possible priorities for the coming year, stakeholders were reminded that the KVH priorities are broad to allow for coalition buy-in.
- Richard Heine suggested greater attention to Health Acquired Infections (HAIs) and more transparency by health institutions.

Prefiled Bills Update – a tracking list has been started to monitor prefiled bills of possible interest to KVH stakeholders.

- Tonya Chang provided an update on BR 13 prefiled by Rep. Linda Belcher that seeks to address obesity in children. Her bill does not meet the physical activity standards that AHA has developed. Rep. Addia Wuchner had a similar bill last year. It would be of great benefit to have Rep. Belcher and Rep. Wuchner work together.

News/Updates

- Ben Keeton with Medical News/Medical News for You discussed the publications, particularly the consumer paper (Medical News for You) of which 15,000 copies are published and disseminated to physician offices. These are paper-only publications, not available online. They are looking into distribution through the public libraries. Keeton also indicated that there will be a special issue of Medical News in December to highlight legislative initiatives for the 2011 General Assembly.
- Keeton is also the Executive Director of the BioAlliance representing the interests of the pharmaceutical and health technology community to maximize economic interests in Kentucky.
- Audrey Darville will be presenting on Kentucky advocacy efforts that led to the adoption and implementation of the Medicaid Smoking Cessation program at the upcoming Multi-State Collaborative meeting. KVH is a co-sponsor of this presentation.
- Dean Johnson circulated promotional materials for the upcoming Seven Counties TalentFest on October 2, 2010.
- Scott Wegenast announced the AARP webinar series and will send information to Jodi Mitchell for posting on the KVH calendar.
- KVH participated in the Kentucky Diabetes State Plan meeting on September 21.
- Jodi Mitchell is also participating in the Population Health and Transparency Committees of the Governor's Office for Health Information Exchange.
- KVH will be exhibiting at the Kentucky Primary Care Association Meeting and will be attending the annual meeting of the Kentucky Health Departments Association meeting.
- KVH Stakeholders are reminded to follow KVH on Twitter and Facebook.
- KVH is pursuing 501(c)(3) status and has narrowed its candidates to retain for legal and accounting services to assist the coalition. Non-profit status will allow the coalition to seek funding from diverse sources. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws will be carefully developed to reflect the breadth of the coalition and allowing individual organizations who are part of the coalition to maintain their own agendas.

Next Meeting Dates:

- October 19, 2010 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Frankfort
- November 11, 2010 – hosted by KY Domestic Violence Association