

January 10, 2013
Executive Director Update and Report

First and foremost, we received conditional certification as a state-based exchange. I want to thank the staff. The hard work by our sister agencies, your hard work, and staff made this possible. Second, the IT Vendor Contract was signed with InfoSys. They will be making a presentation at today's meeting.

Staffing: We are still in the process of establishing the new quasi-government agency. After all pieces are resolved we will be able to hire, contract with consultants, and contract with Vendors. Sandra will provide more detail. She will also provide information on office space. We hope to start posting positions next week.

Assessment: I am fully assessing what we need to do both on the policy side and program implementation side.

First I'll discuss policy. As you know there are many policy decisions that we have to make in a very short period of time. These have to be made prior to full programmatic implementation. For example, before issuers can be certified as QHP issuers, we need to know what standards will apply. Other states made such policy decisions in 2012. (We need to make these on a much faster track.)

Related to policy decision is process. You asked me to review and improve our process for working with stakeholders. I completed a review of our process working with stakeholders. Based on discussions and stakeholder feedback and based on the need to make decisions quickly. We are establishing a process that is community based – building an exchange from the ground up through working groups. We will have working groups chaired by one of you with a Vice Chair from the Advisory Board. If you are not available to chair, then the Advisory Board member will chair. These working groups will have diverse stakeholders as members and will be short term (2 to 3 weeks). These will focus on specific topics. I am asking stakeholders to volunteer to serve on these working groups as members. The goal will be to discuss specific policy questions, identify areas where there is consensus, try to reach consensus on other areas, and identify issues where there isn't consensus. This new approach is community based ensuring that all stakeholders help build the exchange.

I expect the working groups to get to consensus on many issues. Areas that have consensus will go up to the full Board for approval. The issues without consensus will be referred to the existing Board Committees. The working group's deliberations will be open to the public and will become the core record that the Board Committee reviews. That record will include policy options, pro's and con's, stakeholder positions, and any evidence/data presented in the working group meetings.

These working groups will be staffed at a high level by people with extensive subject area and exchange implementation expertise. For example, Jon Kingsdale (MA Connector) – will work with two of the working groups. I would like to thank Princeton University through a grant from the Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation for recognizing our need for technical assistance and funding that assistance from Mr. Kingsdale. Other working groups will have high level staff support from nationally recognized experts and people with direct exchange implementation experience.

I want to make it clear that any Board Member can participate in any working group even if you are not chairing the working group.

I chose these topics based on discussions with stakeholders, some of you, and my assessment of what we need to do urgently and what is slightly less urgent. I welcome additional suggestions.

The new working groups include:

- EHB working group (formulary, mental health parity, benefit substitution, habilitative services open issues) (Jan/Feb)
- network adequacy working group (Jan/Feb)
- quality (data and display, other issues) (Feb/March)
- certification of QHP issuers process (policy decisions around certification by company that requirements will be met, are met, evidence, etc.) (Feb)
- premium billing and collections (issue: individual exchange have us or carriers do this) (Jan/Feb)
- plan choice -- employer/employee (Jan/Feb)
- sustainability (Feb/March)
- dental plans (Feb/March)
- number of plan offerings and standardization of benefits (Feb/March)

Also, I want to be clear that these working groups are not replacing the three longer term Advisory Boards: Producer, Plan Management, and Consumer Assistance that you established by resolution in December. The standing Advisory Boards will be responsible for focusing on their subject areas unless there is a specific working group that is handling a topic. Any policy issues without a working group or Advisory Board will be referred to the Advisory committee.

Sign-up sheets for each new working group are on the tables just outside the room. We also need Board members and Advisory Board members to volunteer to Chair and Vice Chair. Working groups will be established as policy issues are identified.

This new process will help us achieve the goal of building the best exchange for the District. It is being built by the community with all stakeholders helping to build it. The new process will also help us make policy decisions in a timely way as each working group will expect to finish work quickly.

Assessment of readiness: I will be meeting with sister agencies to ensure that all functions that the Exchange is responsible for under the ACA are being lead by a sister agency or us. This is to ensure that nothing falls through the cracks. This will also help us memorialize sister agency coordination when more than two agencies are involved. I will also be working with sister agencies to assess the readiness

of the areas where each agency is the lead. If we need to shift resources, we will. We will also ask for additional resources from the federal government if sister agencies need additional short-term resources. This readiness assessment will also help inform the MOUs/agreements we are required to have with sister agencies under the ACA.

Presentations to-date: Care First; GWAHU/NAIFA

Advisory Board Meeting: First meeting of the Advisory Committee went very well. When minutes are finalized, those will be available on our webpage. We are very fortunate to have the depth of knowledge and stakeholder diversity represented. The Advisory Board agreed to actively participate in the new working groups. The Advisory Board also agreed to review and propose to you membership for the three new Subject Specific Standing Advisory Boards you established. Those recommendations will be ready for you before the next board meeting in February.

Transparency: We are looking at ways to further improve our process and participation in Board meetings. I've asked for pricing comparison for carriers with the capability to have listen only call-in lines that can be opened when you receive public comments. We will have call-in lines available for the next Board meeting.