

## ID Healthcare Committee Report

July 12, 2017

### Action Items in Red

#### Committee Conduct

The group discussed that they want to continue using facts versus political ideology/partisanship as way of that committee conducts itself. The sub-committee is non-partisan and all views are welcome to attend and voice their opinions. It was suggested that when advertising for education events to invite and call out different types of perspectives i.e. unaffiliated, independents, conservatives, liberals etc. There is a current non-political healthcare poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation that reports on different geographic locations and found rural and urban were similar with religious, education and immigration status being where primary differences show up. A variety of poll results can be found at <http://www.kff.org/polling/health-costs/>. Kaiser Family Foundation has developed a useful matrix to compare current and proposed law changes.

The group voiced support for reprisal of single payer option as a focus area of work despite knowing this will be a long-term goal. Healthcare policy could be a healing process for this country to overcome its current divided condition.

Also discussed was the original committee goal of tackling prescription drug costs and ability to take on this issue while working on single payer or resisting AHCA. Probably no ability to get single payer passed during the Trump administration however there is research that if you can get 3.5% of the population to support single payer or any issue, there is a chance of passage even if only state wide versus nationally.

#### Affordable Care Act versus American Health Care Act

It is anticipated there will be a new vote in the Senate by July 20<sup>th</sup> and Guinn advises calling people out to **demonstrate in front of the Double Tree on M-Th, 7:30 – 10:00 am next week**. Jan saw coverage on the last demonstration in Durango on the Rachel Maddow show so the word is getting out.

Susan Collins and around 10 Republicans are not swayed on a yes vote yet but Guinn doubts the effectiveness of contacting elected officials that are not in our district/county/state. Members will **continue to calling Senator Cory Gardner** before next Thursdays anticipated vote. **Guinn will send a PSA** announcing the demonstrations to the Durango Herald, Cortez Journal, Pine River Times as well as radio stations KSUT, KDUR, 4 Corners Broadcasting (Kim Emanuel). **Guinn will send out a PSA template** for other members to use.

It was pointed out that if bill passes as worded now, women will take a more significant hit than men due to lower wages and their premiums will go up because it will be age versus wage base. Women are often single parents or family caretakers and may work only part time. Make signs i.e. **Women will suffer more if this bill passes** (especially those of child bearing age). Signs don't have to have sticks attached if you don't want one.

#### Education Presentations

There is a pressing need to educate larger numbers of people regarding a Single Payer health plan from a factual basis including why other countries are able to get same and better health outcomes for less cost. We need to train several members to conduct these presentations to

multiple groups as it is unreasonable to expect Guinn to do it all. Book clubs can be another way to reach people who may not be involved yet and a good way to reach women according to Jan

The people who ran the Colorado Care campaign are working towards 2019 or 2020 legislation but Guinn is concerned there is inadequate money to finance a new run. If CA and NY pass single payer proposals, they may help the trend turn nationally and influence other states.

**First Single Payer presentation will be at next ID meeting on July 22 at 10:00 am** at Durango Public Library. Questions and concerns that come from this meeting will **help us refine presentation**. After refining presentation, can then have public presentations of about 90 minutes and can rent room at library. Eventually will put presentation on the ID website once refined. **Jan and Suzanne will help Guinn with presentations** after refinements are made as needed.

Ideas to add to presentation:

1. Jan advised addressing potential insurance industry job loss and retraining of those people.
2. Lower cost premiums mean more disposable income for more people to spend in their communities.
3. Sherrod recommended changing financial aspect of presentation into graph or chart.

### **Other Presentations Coming Up**

- Rosemary will address the Community Health Action Coalition (CHAC) on August 11, 8:00 am at the Durango Rec Center.
- Lauren and Kevin O'Connor will be presenting to CHAC in October re health coverage open enrollment which will be November 1 – January 12 for next year's plan selections.
- Connie Fox, Montezuma County group is reaching out to social service agencies, nonprofits, the medical community, democratic precincts and other entities to educate on Universal Healthcare. At this time they prefer the term Universal Healthcare to Single Payer.

### **Now is the Time Movie**

Connie has the 35 minute version DVD of this film which would be good for presentations versus the 90 minute version which is too long for community viewings. It can also be ordered for about \$25. A space at FLC can be obtained for free. Sherrod recommended pairing with another organization at the Fort like small business, Wellness Center etc. to host the viewing. Could partner with the Medical Coverage Collaborative to work with educating FLC students and **Lauren will take the lead on this presentation** as already working to do a health coverage enrollment campaign on campus in early fall.

### **Montezuma Alliance for Unity – Connie Fox**

Many state politicians are ignorant of the healthcare issues. There is an upcoming summit meeting of ID District 3 in Ridgeway to present people who are going to be running for office. Resist bot will send out faxes automatically.

Connie is in favor of empowering people by giving them contact cards, and talking points about the healthcare situation. The Montezuma Alliance will be doing house parties and prepare educational packets. She recommends the book, American Sickness by Elizabeth Rosenthal.

**Guinn will send an overview of this book** prepared by Connie to committee members.

**Other Good Reads**

TR Reid, The Healing of America and has written a new book on taxes, A Fine Mess- A Global Quest for a Fairer, Simpler, and more Efficient Tax Code  
12 best practices on delivering healthcare - American Prescription book

**Future Committee Meetings**

Sunday meetings start at 4 instead of 2 pm alternating between Sundays and Wednesdays.

At next meeting the committee will develop a list of groups we can present to including thinking outside the box like book clubs, grange halls etc.

Submitted by:

Lauren Patterson

Guinn Unger, Co-Chair