

## Indivisible Durango Healthcare and Senior Issues Meeting

April 25, 2018

### Follow-up actions in red font.

**Present:** Sherrod Beall, Philip Riffe, Linda Barnes, Jan Phillips, Adele Brown, Lauren Patterson, Kelly Politeo

#### Miscellaneous News:

2 seats to overturn in CO senate to attain democratic majority

#### New member profiles

Adele – new to Colorado; was a community organizer in Minnesota for conversations on gay marriage and has a hospital administration background. Lots of good ideas for our group to do effective organizing around healthcare issues.

Linda – worked with Indian health services, certified nurse, and midwife. Very impressed with TR Reid book, *Healing of America*

Kelly – Colorado United for Families – works to hold legislators responsible for their actions in response to families. HUB project, focusing on districts where change is either mostly needed and/or is possible. Letter writing workshop to congress and local representatives will take place 1-3 pm Friday 4/27 at Durango Public library. A handwritten letter = 100 emails according to Kelly.

**Essential Question:** What conversations can happen with those on the other side of the healthcare issue?

**Committee Focus** - education and advocacy re single payer system. Sherrod gave overview of committee's efforts to date. Our advocacy efforts are being tracked in a google document at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V60gyk2kKigaQPfje97FDS59VdRZNBHI3ZMyhKFNfjY/edit?usp=sharing> . If you have given a presentation that is not listed, please add it as well as ideas for other groups to outreach.

Tuesday, May 1, Health Advocacy Training at Durango Public Library. It will focus on how to effectively tell your healthcare story. **RSVP as dinner is being served.** Healthier Colorado is a nonprofit in Denver and CHAC (Community Health Action Coalition) is co-sponsor along with Indivisible Durango. Get roster of people who attend to follow-up with - which Jan will do. Jan will send a thank you to participants for attending the training and a follow-up email that reinforces what they can do next to be effective in promoting a single payer system.

Sherrod will call Mary Shinn (Durango Herald) to request she cover the Healthier Colorado event. Everyone: Ask a friend to come with to health advocacy training. Members took event

flyers to post at: Nature's O, DNF, Durango and Bayfield Libraries, 81301, Zia South, Animas Surgical, Smiley bldg., Yoga Durango, and Rec Center

**Lauren will ask Jenny** for names of SJBPH attendees for healthcare provider presentation to ask if they want to be involved.

**Jan - ask Herald for results of healthcare poll that ran in paper a few months back.**

**Filmed healthcare presentation, next steps** <https://youtu.be/7WvWHF35t58>

Education presentation re healthcare finance is now on YouTube which is an hour and most groups only want 30 minutes max. Videographer, Brian Gill could/will (?) edit the film down to 30 minutes. Sherrod can give the presentation at 30 minutes.

Continue to ask League of Women Voters, Local First business meeting, Monique DiGorgio, AARP group at Senior Center, etc.

A recommended edit is the addition of visuals that show cost of single payer for average person so can address fears people may have about change. At end of presentation, make an ask i.e., what steps can you do to help this initiative? Provide handout Sherrod gave at Buckley Rally.

**Sherrod, please send that handout electronically to our committee.**

Write a letter

### **Managing our communication and member list:**

Adele is willing to help Philp segment our current contact list into three separate lists so people only get communiques they are interested in i.e. committee meeting notices, events, updates on action items etc.

### **Legislative Updates**

#### **Colorado**

- The act to have a Universal Health Care Cost Analysis was dropped ☹
- In its place, HB 1384 was introduced – a Medicaid buy-in study bill to review Medicaid, public private partnerships, community/regional insurance access while lowering costs.
- HB 1358 – Comprehensive Billing Transparency Act – requires hospitals, providers, pharmacies, insurance companies to make prices available to the public.

#### **Federal**

- Medicare for all – Bernie Sanders
- Medicare buy-in – Kaine and Bennet (choice limited to individuals)
- Medicare buy-in – Murphy and Merkley (bump up Medicare subsidies from 400-600% of federal poverty level.
- Medicare Extra – Center for American Progress, enhanced Medicare benefits, liberal think tank
- Short term health plans

Lauren reported a Medicaid buy-in program already exists and is entitled: Health First Colorado (Medicaid) Buy-in Program for Working Adults with Disabilities. It is intended for employed individuals, 16-64 years of age who have a qualifying disability and whose income is below 450% of the FPL. For example, you can make about \$4,523 a month and qualify.

## **Moving Forward**

- Many of our committee members will be gone for long periods of time during the summer. We will have a May meeting and then reconvene at the end of August. With upcoming mid-term elections – we can continue giving presentations on healthcare finance.
- Individual members are encouraged and free to continue advocacy efforts as they wish throughout the summer.
- Kelly described some “stunts” that could be done to raise awareness and pique the public’s interest in the issue.
- At August meeting, group is invited to rethink strategy for current reality and consider actions primarily tied to mid-term elections.
- Complete packaging of the YouTube presentation, including editing to 30 minute version and continue outreaching groups to view or promote for online viewing.
- Disseminate Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care Fact sheet (Sherrod distributed at meeting and can be found on foundation’s website: <http://www.couniversalhealth.org/>)
- Develop a member database that shows what type of involvement people want in this project to better target effective communications
- What to do

Lauren added committee’s ideas on groups to present to on google drive.

Lauren will collate frequently asked questions and responses from previous presentations to give to members who want to present the healthcare video so they can have some responses ready ahead of time. A source of responses can be found at Physicians for a National Health Program [www.pnhp.org](http://www.pnhp.org) or see attachment to these minutes.

Submitted by:  
Lauren Patterson