

## **Safety Net Advisory Council Highlights from March 11, 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:** Confirm Legislative strategies, prioritize HIT strategies, confirm Elevator Speech

**SNAC Members Present** – Craig Hostetler, Tracy Gratto, Abby Sears, Beryl Fletcher, Scott Ekblad and Jackie Rose, Vanetta Abdelatif, Tom Fronk, Priscilla Lewis

**Staff** - Marian Blankenship, Joel Young,

**February Highlights** were reviewed and accepted.

### **Confirm Elevator Speech**

The revised Elevator Speech was accepted unanimously. It will be removed from DRAFT and placed on the SNAC website.

### **Confirm Legislative Strategies**

The Council reviewed a matrix of potential priorities and discussed several in detail. The Ad-hoc committee will continue to meet through the session to respond to developments related to SNAC priorities. The Council agreed the SB 456 (Integrated Health Home) should be added to the matrix.

The Council discussed terms of engagement and what the expectations are in taking a position on a bill or a piece of policy. Council members were reminded that SNAC positions are not intended to represent the views of their respective organizations. Members agreed that further discussion/clarification regarding the

terms of engagement, should be addressed at a future meeting. For the meantime, the Council agreed to an interim strategy.

*When there are dissenting opinions, written testimony will **not** include the names of council members with their organizations but instead, will only contain the SNAC logo. A statement of SNAC's charge will be added to the bottom of the testimony.*

Questions were raised regarding who the "Go to" is for bills that SNAC may be interested in. Beryl suggested that each member around the table is likely knowledgeable about certain bills and can be a resource. Marian suggested that she could help coordinate this information exchange and requested that members send bills to her and she will send them out to the council for comment, as appropriate. Beryl also noted that by mid-April, any bill that has not had a Hearing would essentially be "dead".

### **Prioritize HIT Strategies**

Abby provided a very helpful summary of what is happening with federal stimulus dollars. In sum, she shared that things are evolving very quickly and changing nearly hourly. Some of the strategic thinking of the earlier meeting between she, Joel and Marian is now possibly obsolete. The SNAC/IAIMS work is very promising and there may be some stimulus \$ to support it.

Abby provided insight regarding current potential levers and said that it is critical that there be HIT vision and leadership at the state level. She mentioned that the Medicaid Transformation Grant is a good strategy and the state should capitalize on what has already been funded and is in development. The Stimulus package is looking to the states to take the lead on interoperability, which essentially comes down to execution and a mechanism for reimbursement. The state does not yet appear to have a strategy.

What can SNAC influence/support?

- The SNAC can help encourage the state to develop a more comprehensive HIT policy rather than taking things in bits and pieces.
- The SNAC can and should support administrative simplification
- Demonstrate how information can be shared in a safe, secure and effective way and emphasize what is possible.

**Next Steps:**

- **Marian will add SB 456 to Leg Priorities Matrix, send back out to council and summarize discussion**
- **Ad-hoc committee will meet to discuss strategies related to bills**
- **Council members will send bills of interest to Marian for distribution to the group**
- **Abby will keep staff and council updated on developments around HIT and stimulus \$ opportunities**
- **Marian will send back out Principles Document – Council will provide revisions and will vote on at the April meeting.**

**Meeting adjourned:**

**SNAC Meetings:**

See 2009 Calendar

**800 NE Oregon Street, Portland  
Portland**