

**Summary of U-SHARE coalition meeting
August 24, 2011**

Utahns for Sustainable Health Reform **U-SHARE**

Working toward affordable, high-quality health care for all Utahns.

Attendance:

Randall Topper, Prudential
Barbara Munoz, Voices for Utah Children
Tom Metcalf, UHPP, Utah AAP
Norman Thurston, State of Utah
Patty Conner, OCHS
Steve White, Utah ALF-CIO

Marilyn Snell, UPA
Jen Gonnely, LWV UT
Shelly Braun, UHPP
Danny Harris, AAPR
Kim Meyers, UHPP
Louis Fazio

Utah's Health Exchange

Shelly gave a brief presentation about the history of Utah's health reform and the Utah Health Exchange. The group then discussed the current state of the exchange and how it might be improved to increase affordable access to quality health care to more Utahns. One issue on the table was "governance." Utah's exchange has two boards: the Risk Adjuster Board and the Exchange Advisory Board—neither of which are true governance boards. Because Utah's health exchange is housed in an existing state agency (the Office of Consumer Health Services in the Governor's Office of Economic Development) new federal exchange rules do not require it to have a governing board. However, good governance with all stakeholders represented is important for the growth and expansion of the exchange as the federal health law (ACA) is implemented over the next few years.

Patty Conner, UHE director, informed U-SHARE members that the Exchange Advisory Board has been dissolved, and a new advisory structure is being put in place. This new structure splits the insurers, brokers, and consumers into separate advisory groups and forms an executive steering committee. This structure will, according to Conner, allow people to speak freely about their issues concerning the exchange and prevent others from having to listen to discussions about issues irrelevant to their area of concern. For example, brokers will be able to discuss at length operations issues they encounter while advising their clients, and consumer advocates won't have to listen to the nuts and bolts of those operations issues. The executive steering committee will be headed by the Lt. Governor and is meant to be a high level visionary advisory committee. Conner then invited U-SHARE to work with her to form the consumer advocate advisory portion of the new advisory structure.

• **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, Sep 20, 11:30-1:00
Catholic Diocese, 27 C Street
Bishop Kearney Room