

State Planning Project for the Uninsured
Models Development Workgroup Activities
August 22, 2005 Update to the Advisory Council
Part II

The Models Development Workgroup will review and assess models for their viability and acceptability in expanding health insurance coverage. They will evaluate the impact of selected models on existing coverage and on the safety net system. Then, using information collected through the household and employer surveys, as well as focus groups, key informant interviews and town hall meetings, they will develop and recommend to the Advisory Council a set of realistic strategies and viable option for expanding health insurance coverage in Michigan.

Completed Activities and Outcomes:

The group's Facilitator, Hollis Turnham, first called the Models Development Workgroup to order on Wednesday, July 22, 2005. Hollis is the Michigan Policy Director of the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute. At that meeting, she led members as they:

- Discussed the rules of engagement, their role and responsibilities under the State Planning Grant and completed organizational matters, including identifying stakeholders missing from the workgroup.
- Participated in a "Comprehensive Review and Discussion of Expansion Options" with Dr. Elliot Wicks of Health Management Associates (HMA). This discussion served to increase the workgroup's knowledge of coverage expansion models, as well as their appreciation for the complexities and trade offs involved in their task.

The Workgroup next met on August 3, 2005. After welcoming new members invited to fill out their ranks, members:

- Learned about the data collection instruments that will provide information for their deliberations on coverage expansion models. These data instruments included the Landscape Analysis, Town Hall Meetings, the Household and Employer Surveys, the Focus Groups and the Key Informant Interviews.
- Reviewed a timeline of scheduled preliminary tasks, and reviewed and commented on the draft Expansion Model Evaluation Template. The group intends to use the Expansion Model Evaluation Template (EMET) as a standard format with which to collect data, evaluate and report on the viability and acceptability of coverage expansion models. EMET is largely based on expansion model attributes developed by Dr. Elliot Wicks and the Economic and Social Research Group for the California HealthCare Foundation.
- Participated in a large group discussion of the expansion models covered by Dr. Wicks at the previous meeting and then broke down into smaller task groups to discuss specific groups of models they wished to further explore. While in their task groups, members made their first attempts to apply the attributes in the Expansion Model Evaluation Template to their deliberations. They also developed a list of question and issues to raise during the 8/17 "Guided Discussion" with Dr. Elliot Wicks and Eileen Ellis of Health Management Associates (HMA).

The Models Development Workgroup last met on August 17, where members:

- Participated in the “Guided Discussion” of Coverage Expansion Models that ran most of that afternoon. Members became very involved in the discussion, raised issues on the expansion models they had discussed in their task groups and probed the viability of several new ones added to the group’s working list entitled “Options for Expanding Health Insurance Coverage to Michigan’s Uninsured”. As a result of this discussion, members walked away with a deeper understanding of how the models work, their trade-offs and a list of issues for further consideration.

Future Activities and Expected Outcomes:

The Workgroups’ next meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2005, when members will:

- Develop a set of “Over-Arching Goals” and review their “Rules of Engagement”.
- Discuss and establish Workgroup communication protocols.
- Summarize “What did we learn?” from the 8/17 “Guided Discussion”.
- Break into task groups for more detailed exploration of specific expansion models.