

**Purchaser Advisory Council – Interim Report
Recommendations Presented to the KHPA Board - 8/20/2007**

**Health Reform Framed Around Three Draft Messages:
Providing and Protecting Affordable Health Insurance
Paying for Prevention and Primary Care
Promoting Personal Responsibility**

Providing and Protecting Affordable Health Insurance

Benefits Package:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was support for affordable benefit packages that are valued by targeted consumers.

Small Business:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was to align incentives to all small businesses regardless of whether they have previously offered coverage and to also align incentives to individuals in the target population; health reform measures should be designed to minimize subsidies to existing insured populations.

Employer Responsibility:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was employer contributions should not be mandated to achieve health for all Kansans.

Individual Responsibility:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was additional information is needed prior to making a recommendation on individual responsibility with regard to how much an individual should pay for a health care plan and what constitutes an affordable health care plan.

Health Insurance Connector:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was opposition to an insurance connector, regardless of whether it would be voluntary or mandatory.

Mandates:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was support for an individual mandate, but concerns and reservations regarding the practicality of such a requirement.

Revenue Streams:

Summary: A Purchaser Council member requested that a survey be generated asking if there was support among Council members for an increase in the tobacco tax as a potential funding source for health reform. The survey triggered responses from 9 of the 15 Council members. The general consensus of the Purchaser Council survey respondents was support for a tobacco tax if used as a dedicated and sustainable financing mechanism for health reform.

Paying for Prevention and Primary Care

Healthy Lifestyles:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Provider Council members was acknowledgement of limited options for low-income individuals and an absence of accountability for Kansans overall when considering barriers that prevent Kansans from having health lifestyles.

Interventions:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was successful interventions utilized to improve health behaviors within organizations currently include both “carrots” and “sticks.”

Health Benefit Designs to Incentivize and Reward Health:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was consumer-driven incentives in health benefit designs may be an effective approach, however, meaningful change will only occur when individuals are accountable for their choices.

Decrease Obesity and Tobacco Use:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was that all parts of government should be involved in adoption of public policies to decrease obesity and tobacco use; health plans and insurers are not the only answer.

Health Benefit Designs to Manage Chronic Disease:

Summary: The general consensus of the group was support for development of a statement to our federal delegation urging them to move forward on the design and implementation of a national, standardized format for health information technology and community health records.

Patient-Centered Medical Home:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was to incorporate tiered incentives (e.g. tiered co-pays) in health plan benefit designs to drive the delivery of care to a patient-centered medical home.

Prevention Effort Priorities:

Summary: The general consensus of the Purchaser Advisory Council members was to focus on young children, chronic diseases, and provide support to employers by creating and maximizing incentives for voluntary baseline prevention and wellness programs when considering the state’s limited resources.

Promoting Personal Responsibility

Personal Responsibility:

Summary: Policies Kansas should adopt to promote personal responsibility triggered responses from Purchaser Council members as follows: encourage community culture that creates safe places to live and play; promote health care transparency to move toward a consumer-driven world; support evidence-based medicine in health plans; and everyone should have some “skin in the game.”

