

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE PLANNING GRANT**

Public Forums

The State of Connecticut conducted five Health Insurance Exchange Public Forums across Connecticut in April, May, and June, 2011.

These forums are funded by the *Health Insurance Exchange Planning Grant* and are the first of what will be many engagements with the public as Connecticut plans the Exchange. At this early stage, not all of the federal rules are yet available and most state-level decisions have not been made. The Planning Grant is being used to conduct research and stakeholder engagement as part of this decision-making process. Thus, it is often difficult to answer questions at this stage because there are not a lot of answers. The purpose of these forums is for initial outreach to the community: (1) to let the community know the State is beginning to plan to Exchange, (2) to provide information on planning activities to-date and next steps, and (3) to solicit feedback about how Connecticut's citizens would like to see the Exchange develop.

Each Public Forum opened with a brief presentation on the Health Insurance Exchange (available online at: www.ct.gov/om/exchangegrant).

Following is a summary of the issues raised by the public at each Forum:

**DANBURY CITY HALL
155 DEER HILL AVENUE , DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810
April 25, 2011**

- Concern about affordability, controlling costs, pricing of plans, and transparency in pricing
- Question about how the Exchange will impact Medicare and Medicaid
- Interest from small employers and consumers
- Exchange Board should have consumers and small employer representation, advisory groups, and provisions against conflict of interest
- Exchange should make comparative information more accessible

**NEW LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY
63 HUNTINGTON STREET, NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT 06320
April 27, 2011**

- Question about tie-in between Sustinet and the Exchange
- Concern about affordability
- Concern about how the Exchange will be funded
- Consider the role of the agent in assisting small employers select insurance
- Good insurance plans need good provider networks

CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE PUBLIC FORUMS

**NEW HAVEN CITY HALL
165 CHURCH STREET, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510
May 5, 2011**

- Question about how the Exchange will impact HUSKY and Charter Oak
- Exchange Board should have consumer and small employers representation
- Importance of quality, affordability, and access to providers
- Questions about how the Exchange will be paid for and whether it will include advertising
- Concern that rising costs and physician shortage will be difficult to address with the Exchange
- Include medical nutrition therapy in benefits
- Consider the important of the agent
- Ensure Navigators are properly licensed and insured
- Hope that Sustinet will be part of the Exchange

**HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
300 MAIN STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
May 9, 2011**

- Remember the role and expertise of agents and brokers and ensure Navigators do not take that role
- Cover nutrition services in benefits package
- Concern about costs for persons identified as having pre-existing conditions
- Hope that Sustinet will be part of the Exchange
- Insurance companies should not be on the Exchange Board
- Ensure Navigators are well trained and have a consistent message
- Concerned about cost of health care
- Think regionally about the parts of Connecticut and their different needs
- Consider quality in addition to affordability and accessibility
- Do not create big new government entities
- Importance of community health centers

**WINDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL
123 QUARRY STREET, WINDHAM, CONNECTICUT
May 17, 2011**

- Need to have consumers represented on the Exchange Board and not insurance companies
- Support for a public option
- Support for medical homes, accountable care organizations, and other reimbursement structures
- Question about whether the Exchange would impact people on Medicare
- Concern about very high costs currently in the individual market
- Be careful with catastrophic coverage