

## **New Hampshire Citizen's Health Initiative**

### **About Us**

The NH Citizens Health Initiative (Initiative) originated from the recommendations of the Pillars Project published in late 2004. The major intent of the Pillars Project, an effort initiated and supported by the Endowment for Health, was to develop a framework for a health care system that provided everyone with access to high-quality, cost-effective care and left no one without health care or coverage. The Pillars Project recognized and reinforced the need for a sustained effort if these goals were to be achieved.

Building upon the work and recommendations of the Pillars Project, the University of New Hampshire and the Endowment for Health identified goals, established the Initiative structure and focus, recruited leadership, and established policy teams in the areas of Quality of Care, Health Promotion Disease Prevention and Finance and Cost Information. Governor John Lynch agreed to support the effort and convened the first meeting of the Initiative.

### **Vision & Goals**

Our vision is that over the next decade, New Hampshire will take a 'health first' approach so that all citizens will benefit from proven approaches that improve health and prevent disease. When care is needed, it will be delivered according to the highest quality standards and it will be provided in an efficient, measurable, and scientifically sound manner to help individuals sustain or improve health. The organization and financing of care will occur in a logically constructed and understandable system.

Our long term goal is to create and sustain a public dialogue that will measurably improve the "systems" that finance and provide health care in New Hampshire in order to accomplish two fundamental objectives:

- \* Assure a healthy population
- \* Create an effective system of care

To reach these goals, the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative brings together a broad cross section of citizen representatives, joined by businesses, medical providers, and community agencies in an ongoing, goal-oriented effort to achieve a plan for our state. Our work is driven by information and experience, not by ideology or untested preconceptions. Actions and solutions are vetted by the larger community and undertaken in a way that is open to comment and input from the community, from the initial discussions through to implementation and evaluation.

Throughout the past three years, our work has moved from policy teams to specific working groups. Going forward, we will continue with formal working groups known as Pillar Projects. Our focus for 2009 will be on the following Pillar Projects:

- \* Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- \* Health Payment Reform
- \* Medical Home
- \* Health Information Technology & Exchange
- \* Health Finance & Structure Transparency

At regular intervals, the Initiative holds an annual meeting in which citizen representatives joined by businesses, health care providers, and community agencies review and provide input on all of the documents and proposals presented by the policy or leadership teams, ensuring that the teams have considered the impact on all constituency groups. The Initiative also has access to a group of academic researchers and technical advisors who help inform their work. These individuals share data and research findings to increase teams' understanding of state-of-the-art knowledge and practice.

We intend to sustain the NH Citizens Health Initiative for a minimum of ten years, creating a group that can act as a medical hub for knowledge, innovation, and evaluation. In the end, our aim is to create a system of care that promotes health, assures quality and makes care affordable, effective, and accessible to all.

For More Information:

<http://www.steppingupnh.org/index.cfm?id=880DBB1F-CB50-5A20-910DFC709B77A37F>

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