Healthcare Breakout Session Notes

Facilitator: Linda Pavlik

**Reactions to data presented today:**

* Observation – financial impact number of uninsured was surprising, was making sure the $ amount was accurate and reflected the metroplex
* Realized how quickly things can change in regards to personal financial situation. She realized with elderly parent and children in college, an unexpected event could cause devastation in an instant
* Wondered if ACA dropped any of the numbers or improved the statistics/data
	+ A company has used Oct 2013 as baseline and is collecting data to review in 2-3 yrs to compare

LeAnn Behrens:

* ACA is divided into several different sections
* Medicaid expansion was one
* What is creating havoc is income level in regards to qualifying for ACA. Creating a huge gap for those in between who don’t qualify and cannot attain coverage. Leaves those in “the gap” with no solutions

Is it too late for TX to opt for Medicaid expansion? – No but it is a huge political issue in TX.

Dr. Liz Trevino:

* We have several opportunities in area can engage beyond Medicaid expansion
* North TX Area Community Health Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides access to care to anyone regardless, never turns anyone away
* FQHC is state funded, DHHS awarded funds for open access to care
* Need to sustain or increase funding for program and services

Dr. Kurz:

* Conversation needs to shift away from Medicaid expansion
* Focus more on access to care
* Quality of care improved and reputation of centers that provide care improved some
* TX is bottom of health insurance in general
* Must seek to improve education and child care to improve overall system
* Build community in all areas to create healthier people

Could system where we all go to specific provider make difference? Yes:

* Already overwhelmed with patients
* Don’t want to see obese kids and kids with diabetes but reality is that healthy food costs more, plus busy lifestyle of single mom prevents her from being able to cook healthy meal
* Just snowballs because finding solution to one facet is not answer, has to be overall shift of all pieces to see reduction in disease
* Average business cannot do well due to regulation of ACA. ACA controlling benefits design and lowering FT to 30 hours

Dr. Blue:

* Has own practice for over 40 years and this is first year that she has not accepted Medicaid/Medicare patients due to receiving only 80% of billed in return

FW has multiple free clinics that need your support

* Clinics take care of those in “the gap”
* Clinics receive no funding
* 12 in FW, 4 sizeable
* 70% patients are female
* Cornerstone is one that is open M-F as a lot of others are
* Need support, volunteers, donations

JPS

* Expanded program for 18-65 yr old females to cover contraceptive care
* Home visits with patients to ensure they are continuing self care
* Resources available

Is there a trend towards preventative care?

Dr. Kurz:

* Parts of ACA geared to covering more of the preventative care and money was set aside for research to go towards preventative care but was used to push ACA through
* Things are moving in right direction but tons more work to do
* Another issue that requires more attention is mental health. There is not enough awareness and needs a lot more emphasis. Need programs to provide children with cognitive support

**Brainstorming**

Judy: One area is educating voters on health care issues and making candidates accountable to providing a better understanding of ACA and healthcare

Dr. Liz:

* Support local community efforts such as NTACHC and Cornerstone
* Find champion to assist with sustained funding for local efforts

What public institution can assist with increasing awareness of mental health issues and resources?

Transportation is a big challenge for those that need open access care. What is solution?

* Catholic Charities
* Volunteer efforts that provide transportation

FW Biz Press – capacity to get message out to employers which in turn can provide information to their employees.

* Contact dconnor@bizpress.net to provide strategy to work on communication of resources
* Also, League of Women Voters Tarrant County

Nancy Blinn w/ Dental Health Arlington:

* Provides low cost clinic ($35 exam)
* Dental disease is #1 issue for children missing school
* Located in central Arlington

Pat w/ United Way:

* Social services provider network
* 2-1-1 to refer for services
* Provides info on other health collaborative
* Agree that need community health improvement plan

Judy w/ TX Women Foundation (funder)

* When applying for grants, recommends that also provide 3rd party assessment so that can show proven need (local level) to increase approval and award on proposals

**Wrap Up**

Dr. Kurz:

* Educate those that don’t vote for change on hidden taxes, explain why everyone see increase of 10%-12% hike in insurance costs

Dr. Liz:

* Support local efforts
* Be aware of resources
* Continue funding of local efforts that provide open access care

LeAnn:

* Be aware of great services that locally provided
* Get focus on big picture to solve issues
* Be smarter and better healthcare consumers

Regina w/ North TX Charitable Fund

* Network of physicians providing funding and volunteer services to community

Suggestion made to partner with school districts to provide list of resources. Contact Communications department at ISD.

Devan Allen w/ Office of State Rep Chris Turner: Contact office (prior to session start) to advocate for issues and receive assistance from State Rep

Linda Pavlik noted that email list of attendees will be made available.