

Citizens' Health Care Working Group

A nonpartisan two-year federal effort to learn what kind of health care system Americans want

The Citizens' Health Care Working Group was established in 2003 to engage Americans in
“**a nationwide public debate about improving the health care system to provide every Americans
with the ability to obtain quality, affordable, health care coverage;**”
and to develop recommendations for the President and Congress to provide
“**health care that works for all Americans,**” in fall 2006.

<http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/>

Citizens' Working Group Questions for the American People:

- What health care benefits and services should be provided?
- How does the American public want health care delivered?
- How should health care coverage be financed?
- What trade-offs are the American public willing to make in either benefits or financing to ensure access to affordable, high-quality health care coverage and services?

Citizens' Working Group Tentative Timeline:

- Working Group Hearings (*through September 2005*)
- Health Report to the American People (*release 10/06/05*)
- Community Meetings (*Nov 05 – April 06*)
- Interim Report and Public Comment Period (*May 06 – July 06*)
- Recommendations (*September 29, 2006*)
- Presidential Proposal and Congressional Hearings (*2007*)

Work Group Hearings Overview

- Capacity of the public and private health care systems to expand coverage options.
- Cost of health care and the effectiveness of care provided at all stages of disease.
- Innovative State strategies used to expand health care coverage and lower health care costs.
- Local community solutions to accessing health care coverage.
- Efforts to enroll individuals currently eligible for public or private health care coverage.
- Role of evidence-based medical practices that can be documented as restoring, maintaining, or improving a patient's health.
- Use of technology in supporting providers in improving quality of care and lowering costs.
- Strategies to assist purchasers of health care, including consumers, to become more aware of the impact of costs and to lower the costs of health care.

Internet Citation: Hearings Overview. Citizens' Health Care Working Group. April 2005. Bethesda, MD
<<http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/hearings/hearover.htm>>

Source: *Citizens' Health Care Working Group* • **Web:** www.citizenshealthcare.gov
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Prepared by the: **Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN)**
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Health Report to the American People Overview

- A summary of:
 - Health care and related services that may be used by individuals throughout their life span.
 - Cost of health care services and their medical effectiveness in providing better quality of care for different age groups.
 - Source of coverage and payment, including reimbursement, for health care services.
 - Reasons people are uninsured or underinsured and the cost to taxpayers, purchasers of health services, and communities when Americans are uninsured or underinsured.
 - Impact on health care outcomes and costs when individuals are treated in all stages of disease.
 - Health care cost containment strategies.
 - Information on health care needs that need to be addressed.
- Examples of community strategies to provide health care coverage or access.
- Information on geographic-specific issues relating to health care.
- Information concerning the cost of care in different settings, including institutional-based care and home and community-based care.
- Summary of ways to finance health care coverage.
- Role of technology in providing future health care including ways to support the information needs of patients and providers.

Internet Citation: Health Report to the American People Overview. Citizens' Health Care Working Group. April 2005. Bethesda, MD <<http://www.citizenshealth.ahrq.gov/healthreport/repover.htm>>

Community Meetings Overview

Overview—The Working Group will hold health care community meetings throughout the United States, reflecting geographic differences, diverse populations, and a balance among urban and rural groups on these topics:

- What health care benefits and services should be provided?
- How does the American public want health care delivered?
- How should health care coverage be financed?
- What trade-offs are the American public willing to make in either benefits or financing to ensure access to affordable, high quality health care coverage and services?

Internet Citation: Community Meetings Overview. Citizens' Health Care Working Group. April 2005. Bethesda, MD <<http://www.citizenshealth.ahrq.gov/community/commover.htm>>

Recommendations Overview

Overview—The Working Group will develop a set of recommendations based on the feedback from community meetings on:

- Health care coverage.
- Ways to improve and strengthen the health care system.

Following a public comment period, the Working Group will submit a final set of recommendations to Congress and the President.

Internet Citation: Recommendations Overview. Citizens' Health Care Working Group. April 2005. Bethesda, MD <<http://www.citizenshealth.ahrq.gov/recommendations/recsover.htm>>

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