

Key Points Related to Independent Advocate Concerns

1. Agree that strong consumer participation is essential to assuring best outcome
2. Appreciate their ongoing dialogue and input as we collaborate to assure consumer input
3. The Steering Committee has acted to increase consumer input through representation on the committee and to strengthen the role and responsibilities of the Consumer Advisory Board by:
 - Appointing two Independent Advocates to Steering Committee
 - Appointing a CAB Representative to SIM Steering Committee
 - Giving CAB Responsibility for recommending consumers and advocates on work groups
 - Supporting expanded CAB membership to allow greater representation and input
4. While there was not a lengthy discussion of the consumer request for 51% representation on work groups, the CAB representative reported to the SIM at its last meeting that they had discussed this request and decided not to adopt a quota approach to the work groups.
5. The “qualifications” of consumer work group members was amended at the request of steering committee members to assure that consumers with relevant experience would not be discouraged from participating because they did not have “technical expertise.” However, consumer advocates with expertise were not excluded.
6. It is expected that the CAB will provide recommendations for a system to coach or support consumers who do not have technical expertise. We also plan to have stipends to support such participation, and to hold forums to solicit input from consumers not involved in the process.
7. All references to the expectation that work group members champion or actively support the final plan have been deleted.
8. Because of the need to accommodate the schedules of work group members, it is not expected that all work groups will meet during regular business hours. However, the goal of transparency is important, and information regarding meeting times and locations, with an opportunity for non-members to attend is one we fully support.