



**Jeannette B. DeJesús**  
SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNOR  
OFFICE OF HEALTH REFORM & INNOVATION  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Consumer Advisory Board**  
Meeting  
July 18, 2012 – 10:00am-12:00pm  
Legislative Office Building, Room 1B  
Minutes

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**Members Present:** Jeannette DeJesús, Richard Porth, Patricia Checko, Bryte Johnson, Robert Koorse, Theanvy Kuoch, Sharon Langer, Nanfi Lubogo

**Members Absent:** Lena Rodriguez

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

Jeannette DeJesús opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Members introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes of the May 14 Meeting**

The minutes of the May 14 meeting were approved.

### **Public Forum for Community Voices**

There was no public comment.

### **Update on Essential Health Benefits**

Ms. DeJesús spoke about the process by which the state will decide on an Essential Health Benefits package. She explained that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires each state to adopt an Essential Health Benefits package which will set a standard for health plans sold to individuals and small groups, including those in the Exchange. The ACA allows states to choose a plan from

among those currently offered to serve as the Essential Health Benefits package. These plans must include essential benefits enumerated by the ACA, as well as any mandates required by the state. Two of the Exchange's advisory committees have made recommendations to the Exchange Board on an Essential Health Benefits package, and the Board will vote on a package at a future meeting.

In addition to impacting the Exchange and other individual and group health plans, Ms. DeJesús said, the decision on an Essential Health Benefits package will affect the evaluation of a potential Basic Health Plan, since the subsidies paid to the state for a BHP would be based on the EHB package. The Basic Health Plan Work Group is conducting an analysis of this option for Connecticut.

### **Consumer Advisory Board Work Plan**

Rick Porth began the discussion of the Consumer Advisory Board's work plan by recommending that the Board coordinate with other work groups and the Exchange's advisory committees. Ms. DeJesús added that the Basic Health Plan Work Group and the Exchange Board and its advisory committees are working on issues that are the most relevant to consumers. She encouraged Consumer Advisory Board members to attend and participate in meetings of those groups.

Mr. Porth also recommended that the Consumer Advisory Board hold a forum for consumers to share their thoughts and experiences on the health care system and health reform. Pat Checko mentioned that the Exchange was planning consumer forums which would take place in the coming months, and she suggested that the Consumer Advisory Board coordinate with the Exchange on those meetings. Ms. DeJesús said that it might be better for the Consumer Advisory Board to hold its own forum after the Exchange forums have ended, possibly in October. Members agreed that a forum would be a good way to get input from a variety of consumers.

Ms. DeJesús said that the Consumer Advisory Board, with the assistance of staff in the Office of Health Reform & Innovation, should compose and distribute a consumer bulletin, which would include relevant and timely updates and information about health reform and related topics. Sharon Langer suggested that these bulletins could include information that consumers don't receive from other sources. Ms. DeJesús said these bulletins should be brief and that content could be provided by members. Members agreed to assist with the composition of the consumer bulletin.

### **Next Steps**

Ms. DeJesús said that staff in the Office of Health Reform & Innovation would distribute information on relevant upcoming meetings, and would begin planning the consumer forum and bulletin.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.