

NOVEMBER 2010

Legislative Management Team (LMT) Report:

This Report includes 3 Sections:

1. The LMT at Work
 2. State Issues
 3. HIAPAC & HUPAC
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THE LMT AT WORK

At our October LMT meeting, we discussed issues relating to transparency and exchanges. The transparency issue is gaining momentum as NJAHU is pushing to have providers disclose the cost of medical service before they are performed. We are hoping to present an issue paper that explains our position and will interest a few state legislators who might consider transforming our ideas into a piece of proposed legislation.

We are preparing for Capitol Conference 2011. The date is February 14th to 16th 2011 and the venue has changed to the Capitol Hyatt Regency. Our sub-committee is exploring the idea of different and less expensive hotels in the area in an effort to accommodate people who might want to go but are concerned about finances. Each local chapter will determine their own policy for re-imbusement. Our goal is 50 to conference in 2011.

Our **Position Papers Sub-Committee** issued a very important position paper on

Assembly Bill 3378 was introduced by Assemblyman Gary Schaer. This bill:

Clarifies out-of-network payment responsibilities under health benefits plans; requires certain coverage and procedure disclosures to consumers; revises procedures for changes to managed care plan contracts.

Assembly Bill 1930 was introduced again by Assemblyman Herb Conaway. This bill is the

"New Jersey Health Insurance Connector Act"; establishes New Jersey Health Insurance Connector; provides gross income tax exclusion for cafeteria plan benefits.

We have issued position papers opposing these proposed pieces of legislation. They do nothing to protect the consumer and can only increase the cost of healthcare as opposed to controlling it.

STATE ISSUES

The Northwest Chapter sponsored a meeting centering on the issue of exchanges. Guests and fellow NAHU members from Massachusetts spoke to the challenges their exchange presented and the current status as well as what to expect in the future. They gave us some important food for thought.

The North and Central chapters are teaming up to present Mr. Ernie Sweatt who is a member of the Utah AHU and has been working with that state's exchange. He will be discussing what they are doing out there and how NJ might benefit. The date of that event is November 16th, 2010.

The carriers have implemented their new policies concerning number of sub-groups and plan designs available to the small business owner.

HIAPAC AND HUPAC

HIAPAC funds continue to hold steady at about \$26,000 but we really need more of our membership to contribute.

A few of our members continue to go to fundraisers in an effort to make our state legislators aware of who we are. We are beginning to become more recognizable to these legislators.

Dutch Vanderhoof attended a fundraiser for Senator Vitale.

Eileen Shrem attended a democratic fundraiser.

Dave Mordo attended a fundraiser for Senator Buono.

HUPAC has allotted funds for 3 of our NJ Congressional delegation, Congressmen Adler, Andrews and Pallone. Because of their positions of key committees these funds help us gain some access to discuss health insurance reform.

Doug Lubenow, Wendy Ebner and Jon Sharp often see and recently had lunch with Congressman Andrews.

Doug as well as Michael Kapandais often are in contact with Congressman Adler or his staff.

Dave Mordo has been to a few fundraisers for Congressman Pallone.

Jim Stenger and Marilyn Stenger are often called by Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen for advice and comment on health insurance issues.

After election day, we should all contact our congressmen/women and reinforce who we are and that we are here to assist.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE