

[www.hprio.net/issue3](http://www.hprio.net/issue3)

## Web page offers non-partisan guidance on Ohio Issue 3

In late September HPIO launched a page on its website ([www.hprio.net/issue3](http://www.hprio.net/issue3)) dedicated to providing Ohioans with a non-partisan source for resources and information about state ballot Issue 3.

Issue 3 is a ballot initiative creating a state constitutional amendment aimed at preserving individual health care freedom. If passed, Issue 3 will amend the Ohio Constitution to include the following language:

"In Ohio, no law or rule shall compel, directly or indirectly, any person, employer, or health care provider to participate in a health care system. In Ohio, no law or rule shall prohibit the purchase or sale of health care or health insurance. In Ohio, no law or rule shall impose a penalty or fine for the sale or purchase of health care or health insurance."

To provide perspectives on the potential implications of Issue 3, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) asked Maurice Thompson of the 1851 Center for Constitutional Law and Janetta King of Innovation Ohio to write analyses on the potential impact of Issue 3 on Ohio if passed. Thompson is the author of the Issue 3 ballot language and the Executive Director of the 1851 Center for Constitutional Law, a legal center dedicated to protecting the constitutional rights of Ohioans. King is the President of Innovation Ohio, a think tank based in Columbus that recently released a report highlighting the potential unintended consequences of Issue 3.

"The purpose of the Health Policy Institute of Ohio is to provide state policymakers with the information and analysis they need to make informed health policy," said HPIO President Amy Rohling McGee. "In the case of a ballot initiative, the voters are the policymakers and given that Issue 3 is a health policy issue, we wanted to make unbiased information and analysis accessible to Ohio voters."

## HPIO payment reform work off to positive start

When examining ways to improve the health of all Ohioans, it quickly becomes very clear that the only way to bring about substantial change is to better align public and private payment with better health quality outcomes. That is why HPIO identified payment reform as one of its four strategic objectives in its three-year strategic plan that was approved this summer.

And in just a few months since adopting the plan, HPIO already is starting to see signs of success, with the initial organization of a collaborative of diverse stakeholders scheduled to meet on Nov. 3 and financial support from a coalition of employer purchasers.

HPIO was recently notified by Canton-based **Employers Health** that it has awarded a \$10,000 grant to HPIO for its payment reform work.

"We are excited that Employers Health sees the value, as a representative of employers who purchase health coverage, in HPIO's payment reform initiative," said Ted Backus, HPIO Vice President of Operations. "With work beginning on four strategic objectives, organizations now have the opportunity to support specific HPIO efforts that align with their own priorities."

HPIO also has fostered a relationship with **Catalysts for Payment Reform** (CPR), a national non-profit organization that represents large health care purchasers such as The Boeing Company, General Electric and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. In August, CPR announced that it will be teaming with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio to field test its Market Assessment Tool in Columbus. The tool is designed to help health care stakeholders inventory market characteristics they need to consider before designing and implementing improvements to the health care payment system.

The other markets selected to participate in the field test are Memphis, Tenn. and Long Beach, Calif.

CPR is planning to test the assessment tool and refine it with feedback from pilot participants, in preparation for an expected broad public release in early 2012. Upon public release, HPIO will consider utilizing the tool to conduct assessments in other regions of the state to better inform payment reform strategies in Ohio.

Suzanne Delbanco, Executive Director of CPR, will be presenting on her organization's work at an HPIO forum on Nov. 2 at Indiana Wesleyan University-Columbus in Hilliard. The event also will feature a panel of Ohio-based purchasers, both private and public, as they discuss ways to work together to get better value for the health care dollar.

## Foundations renew support for HPIO

In recent months HPIO has been gratified to learn that two of its core funders have approved new multi-year renewal grants that will enable the Institute to continue working to improve the health of all Ohioans.

The **Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton** has committed to providing \$100,000 in support to HPIO over the next two years and the **HealthPath Foundation of Ohio** has committed \$150,000 through 2013.

## Collaboratives taking shape

At the core of HPIO's work is convening diverse public and private stakeholders to examine health policy issues, foster collaboration and build consensus on approaches that policymakers can put into action. Over the past several months, HPIO has begun organizing new collaboratives to address its four strategic initiatives.

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNICATION COLLABORATIVE

In September HPIO held the first meeting of its Health and Wellness Communication Collaborative. In the coming months, collaborative members will explore effective communication strategies to improve the receptivity of legislators and other policymakers, as well as employers, payers and the general public, to messages and practices focused on achieving and maintaining health and wellness for all Ohioans and addressing health disparities.

### HEALTH ACCESS COLLABORATIVE

Also in September, HPIO hosted several stakeholders at the initial meeting of the Health Access Collaborative. The purpose of the access collaborative is to bring together providers (i.e. community health centers, free clinics, local health departments, school-based clinics and hospitals) that primarily focus on serving Ohioans who have difficulty accessing care and other diverse key stakeholders in order to inform an analytical policy brief that HPIO will write; explore ways to share resources and recommend policy changes that will increase access, foster collaboration and improve efficiency.

### ALL PAYER CLAIMS DATABASE COLLABORATIVE

A preliminary meeting of the All Payer Claims Database Collaborative was held in conjunction with HPIO's educational forum on APCDs. Patrick Miller, Executive Director of the national APCD Council moderated the meeting, which included insurance, business, provider and consumer representatives, as well as representatives from state government, including Greg Moody, Director of the Ohio Office of Health Transformation. In upcoming meetings, the collaborative will determine the feasibility, benefits and sustainability of an Ohio APCD, as well as other strategies that achieve health system data transparency. Prior to the public event, HPIO arranged for Miller to meet with three state legislators.

### PAYMENT REFORM COLLABORATIVE

The Payment Reform Collaborative will hold its first meeting Nov. 3, coinciding with the HPIO educational forum on payment reform (more information on page 1). The goal of the collaborative is to explore and advise policymakers on public and private payment reform strategies with the potential to align public and private payment for health care with optimal quality.

## BY THE NUMBERS

downloads/page views for recent HPIO projects (as of Oct. 20)

**Understanding the Medicare ACO and Its Potential Impact on Ohio and the Nation**  
(released May 20, 2011)

**2,412**  
downloads

**HPIO Strategic Plan 2011-2013**  
(released July 25, 2011)

**1,861**  
downloads



**HPIO Ohio Issue 3 resource page**  
(launched Sept. 29)

**1,230**  
pageviews

**2011 Ohio Medicaid Basics**  
(released May 4, 2011)

**9,181**  
downloads



**Making the connection:**  
*A progress report on the history and status of statewide HIT and HIE implementation in Ohio*

(released Aug. 17, 2011)

**525**  
downloads

**Federal rules for establishing health insurance exchange**  
(released Sept. 12, 2011)

**2,035**  
downloads

## HPIO engages policymakers

Given that HPIO's target audience is policymakers and those who influence them, Institute staff is making a concerted effort to meet proactively with legislators, their staff and executive branch officials.

HPIO staff members have met recently with numerous Ohio Senators and Representatives in leadership positions or on relevant health committees, as well as staff members of the House and Senate caucuses.

In addition, HPIO held a half-day training on health policy for Legislative Services Commission (LSC) fellows. The LCS is a nonpartisan agency that provides drafting, fiscal, research, training and other technical services to the General Assembly. LSC fellows intern in legislative offices during their fellowship and often go on to work in state government upon completion of the 13-month program.

HPIO staff also participated in several groups convened by the Ohio Department of Health, such as its Ohio Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative and its State Health Assessment.

## Special Project Spotlight

### HPIO work gets Nelsonville moving

Through a grant from the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HPIO has partnered with the Athens City-County Health Department to organize and promote low cost fitness classes to residents of Nelsonville.

Athens County was selected in large part because of its relatively low health ranking and its local health department's eagerness to implement an evidence-based plan to address chronic diseases, particularly cardiovascular disease.

Through its community health assessment, Athens City-County Health Department identified Nelsonville as a target community because of its high rates of diabetes and heart disease. The health assessment identified financial limitations and lack of approachable, family-oriented activities as the two main barriers to access to fitness opportunities.

To address the issue, the City-County Health Department and HPIO partnered with Athens-based Perform Best Fitness to conduct a series of low-cost (or free) fitness programs at the Nelsonville Community Center. Classes began in August and, to date, 56 one-hour classes have been conducted. In addition, Perform Best has given fitness demonstrations to about 200 children in the Nelsonville schools.

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