



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

We all have a stake in the residents of Milwaukee County being informed about their health care choices. It should be our priority that all Milwaukee County residents have somewhere to turn to access public or private health insurance in these challenging economic times.

We as a county have the ability to go beyond the walls of our buildings and really touch the lives of thousands of Milwaukee County residents by participating wholeheartedly in implementation of the new laws.

Time for debating the law has passed. It is the law, and it is time to take action and make sure the law is working to benefit the most people in our communities.

Working with the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership and the Milwaukee Enrollment Network, we have identified some unmet needs for full implementation of the new federal and state health care laws.

We are not proposing to reinvent the wheel or duplicate services, we are heading the advice of our health care partners on ways county government can be partners in not only helping the people we serve inside our buildings, but also the other members of our communities who are our constituents.

Our partners have been working diligently and cooperatively to ensure we don't leave anyone behind. Our goal and our priority should be to do the same. Every resident should know they have choices and we have an obligation to help those most in need.

This resolution is about values and priorities. Our words are not enough, we need our actions to reflect those values and priorities.

This resolution is about reaching out to as many Milwaukee County residents as possible.

This resolution is about reducing the number of costly emergency room visits.

This resolution is simple about increasing access to health care, public or private to Milwaukee County residents whom we serve.

The proposal includes funding for point of contact calls, hiring trained individuals who can focus all their attention on the person calling who needs guidance rather than being overworked and having too many responsibilities to be effective, outreach and education to the community at large so they are aware of resources, and utilizing existing programs to cooperatively deliver services.

There will be reporting requirements to ensure the funds are used appropriately.

It is not about the surplus, it is about prioritizing need. We know there is an unmet need for implementation to be successful, and we need to be part of the solution.

Information Regarding Health Care Resolution

Summary

- As of October 1, 2013, under the new federal law, approximately 140,000 Milwaukee County residents will need assistance with new health care options available to them.
- We can either direct them to the right resources or they will remain uninsured
- Those without insurance and without information to make informed decisions will continue to receive more costly emergency care, which increases costs for every resident.
- Milwaukee County along with other public and private entities and organizations have diligently and cooperatively planned for our new system.
- Our partners have identified unmet needs in their plans to serve Milwaukee County residents.
- Without proper training for workers, a sufficient number of trained workers, outreach, and proper assistance for retention many people who are eligible for programs or private insurance will not participate.
- ! The more people covered the better.
- ! We can be a part of proper implementation.

Partners

Milwaukee Enrollment Network:

Milwaukee Health Care Partnership, Covering Kids and Families, Department of Health Services

Objective: to reach out and enroll Milwaukee County residents in **public or private** health insurance with a focus on low-income and vulnerable populations

- 1)! Consumer Outreach and Education
- 2)! Enrollment Assistance
- 3)! Insurance Retention
- 4)! Measurement and Improvement

Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (Founded in 2007):

Partners (Public and Private): WI Hospital Assoc., WI Primary Health Care Assoc., DHS, WI State Health Information Network, Area Health Education Center, Children's Health Alliance, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Free and Community Clinic Collaborative (FC3), Life Course Infant Mortality Initiative, IMPACT 2-1-1, Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, Enrollment for Health WI, Medical Society of Milwaukee County, Covering Kids and Families, Planning Council

Objective: increase access to quality health care and create a healthier future for Milwaukee County residents.

Identified Need

*For new enrollment period starting October 1, 2013.

Target Population:

17,000 Transitioning off Medicaid (>100% FPL)
44,000 Newly eligible for Medicaid (<100% FPL)
60,000 Low-income uninsured (100-300% FPL)

Total 121,000 In need of assistance