

Guiding Principles for CT Health Reform

**Randall R. Bovbjerg
Barbara A. Ormond
The Urban Institute**

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IOM PRINCIPLES

- Health care coverage should be **universal**.
- Health care coverage should be **continuous**.
- Health care coverage should be **affordable** to individuals and families.
- The health insurance strategy should be **affordable and sustainable** for society.
- Health insurance should **enhance health and well-being** by promoting access to high-quality care that is effective, efficient, safe, timely, patient-centered, and equitable.

UNIVERSAL COVERAGE

- **motivation** for people to get and keep coverage
 - e.g., mandate or automatic enrollment
- **definition** of what constitutes coverage
- **infrastructure** thru which people can get coverage
 - e.g., employers, insurance agents and brokers, public programs, “connectors”
- **assistance** for low-income and high-risk residents
 - e.g., public subsidy, risk spreading
- sustainable **funding** mechanism(s).

CONTINUOUS COVERAGE

Requires attention to:

- **transitions** between coverage options
 - e.g., income changes that trigger eligibility for public subsidy, health status changes
- **funding mechanism** that minimizes the risk of cutbacks in the future
- explicit **attention to cost** to maintain affordability

AFFORDABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Affordability is influenced by

- income
- health status
- structure of coverage as well as premiums
 - co-pays, deductibles, out-of-pocket limits, lifetime limits
- benefits
 - mental health, oral health, prescription drugs, preventive care, wellness promotion

AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE FOR SOCIETY

- What share of the cost will be borne by the state?
- How will the state share be funded?
- How will funding be maintained in face of the year-to-year challenge to balance state budgets?
- Cost containment and efficiency are critical for sustainability.

ENHANCE HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- Applies to existing coverage as well as expansions.
- Financing should provide the incentives for
 - caregivers to provide efficient, high value care
 - residents to take responsibility for their health and use care wisely.
- Policies that affect caregivers should be attractive enough to induce both reasonable availability of care and willingness to undertake value enhancing activities.
- Providers and residents both need systematic support, including information, oversight, and feedback.
- Establishing and maintaining the correct price signals will contribute to achieving high-value care.