

Key Principles for Health and Health Care in Arizona by 2022

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For many years various entities and individuals – including employers, employees/dependents, governments, doctors and other health care providers – have bemoaned the growing cost of health care services. While many recognize that the quality of health care delivered is the primary concern, it is clear that soaring costs make the delivery of high quality health care to individuals increasingly unaffordable.

If current growth trends continue, future government leaders will either have to increase revenues (i.e., taxes) substantially or reduce other government services dramatically to pay for health care services. Private employers share a similar dilemma. These trends will worsen over time as the citizens of the United States age; the baby boomer generation will access even more health care services.

Across America, enlightened leaders are gathering to discuss the challenges and find solutions. In Arizona, leaders have gathered to form the Arizona Business Coalition on Health (the Arizona Coalition) to address these concerns. To this end, we have established the following principles that will guide the work of the Arizona Coalition during the next 10 years:

- The Arizona Coalition will foster health and health promotion in every action and program it undertakes. Quality health care delivery always includes health promotion.
- The Arizona Coalition will empower employers – the main purchasers of health care and health promotion services – to develop the best solutions to these issues by working in partnership with key providers and with consumers of health care services, primarily employees and their dependents.
- Sustainable improvement in health and health care can be accomplished within 1 year, improving each and every year thereafter, as tracked by objective data reported community-wide.
- Since health, health promotion and health care are predominately local/regional issues today, effective improvements must be implemented locally and regionally.
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- Employer-members will develop the organizational cultures and infrastructure for employees to engage in healthy behaviors and to be more productive at work.
- Shared decision making among patients and their teams of providers (which includes folks like nutritionists, doctors, nurses, care coordinators, behavioral health specialists) generates value; the Arizona Coalition will catalyze this use of evidence-informed, point of service shared decision-making processes.

- Installation of modern technology is a “must” to solve any of these problems; the days of compiling and filing medical information in paper records will soon end.
- There will be full transparency in information surrounding outcomes (quality care delivery) to help individuals make better purchasing decisions. Employers will insist that information be truly available on treatments so employees and their families can choose state of the art methods of care. Patient privacy must be protected at all times.
- Thus, we commit, by 2022:
 - Our employees and their families are actively engaged in healthy behaviors and have made measurable improvements on their health goals;
 - We developed, mentored and supported the actions required to guide health improvements, executed successfully on health promotion plans, and drove health care innovation in our region;
 - We implemented evidence-informed, point of service, shared decision making by individuals and their health care teams;
 - We led our region and our State the adoption of electronic medical information management systems that allowed care to be coordinated within and among providers while ensuring the privacy of medical information; community-wide quality measurements are reported; employees and their families have complete information on diagnoses and alternative treatments.
 - We improved payment systems that ensured delivery of effective and high quality care;
 - We rigorously measured and reported on improvements to prove the success of our collective work; and
 - We drove our community and focused our energies on this process, thus delivering high quality health and health care for our citizens. Arizona is well down the path to becoming the healthiest state in the country!

We declare the following to be the shared vision under which we operate:

Working through its employer-members, the Arizona Coalition will transform the future of health and health care delivery across Arizona, creating better health at lower cost for all people. We will find and work with others who share the same goal.
