



Overview

The Citizens' Health Care Working Group consists of 15 members --14 citizens of diverse backgrounds from across the country, along with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Working Group was authorized by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, to develop recommendations for the President and Congress that would result in "health care that works for all Americans."

The nonpartisan group is tasked with engaging the public in a nationwide discussion of options to improve the current health care system in the United States. It will identify innovative solutions in local communities that have successfully addressed issues of quality, efficiency, and access to health care for the uninsured and underinsured.

The Working Group will accomplish its goals with these tasks:

- Conducting regional hearings in diverse communities on a range of health-related topics;
- Preparing the *Report to the American People* to be made broadly available that summarizes information about the U.S. health care system and which will serve as the basis for a public dialogue among citizens on health care in America;
- Conducting community meetings nationwide to obtain input regarding health care benefits and services, financing of these services, and possible tradeoffs;
- Developing interactive technology, including a Web site, to allow the public an opportunity to provide input regarding the health care services and ways to pay for care; and as a result of these activities,
- Preparing and presenting recommendations to the Congress and the President.

Patricia A. Maryland, President of St. Vincent Hospitals and Health Services, Inc., in central Indiana, serves as chair of the Citizens' Health Care Working Group.

Information on other members of the Working Group is posted on its web site at www.citizenshealthcare.gov.

To receive a copy of the Health Report to the American People or other materials concerning the community meetings please contact C. Chic Smith at 301-443-1592 or by e-mail at csmith@ahrq.gov.

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Health care that works for all Americans