



Bringing people together  
to improve health care and health

May 7, 2013

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair  
Representative Jim Thompson, Vice-Chair  
Members, House Health Care Committee

RE: SB 725

When We Can Do Better launched as the Archimedes Movement in 2006, we spent a good portion of our first year traveling the state, gathering input around a set of principles that continue to guide our work. Two of those principles form the basis of our support to amend SB 725 to include language from HB 2960:

- Decision-making will be clearly defined and accessible to the public, including lines of accountability, opportunities for public engagement and how public input will be used in decision-making.
- The evidence used to support decisions must be clear, understandable and observable to the public.

The advent of Coordinated Care Organizations has the potential to change the way Oregon delivers care, but it is beginning with transforming the care delivered to people on the Oregon Health Plan, which are public dollars and public accountability is essential. We believe that the public must have a clear line of access and input into those decisions. At a minimum, having the Community Advisory Council meetings open to the public is critical.

We asked colleagues who work with us in the Allies for a Healthier Oregon coalition (AHO) to share their positions on this as well. Here is what they said:

- *“**The Oregon Law Center** has consistently supported health care transformation, including the integration of physical, behavioral, and dental care, and the creation of the Coordinated Care Organizations to provide a person centered approach to health. We also support health equity, and the Triple Aim of better health, improved quality, and controlling costs. In this context HB 2960-3 adds important, yet modest, transparency requirements for CCO boards and their advisory councils, to help ensure that the community is engaged and aware of the important work we have undertaken in Oregon.”*
- *“**NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon** expresses its support House Bill 2960. Its requirement for CCO transparency is consistent with our principles as a grassroots advocacy organization. Specifically, Consumer Advisory Council meetings need to be open to the public. This is the primary means for community members to engage in the health care reform process.”*

- *“**The Main Street Alliance of Oregon**, a coalition of over 1200 small businesses across Oregon, supports the provisions of HB 2960. This bill will create a more transparent and inclusive CCO process. It will allow those who are directly affected by the changes in CCO care, options, benefits, etc. to be a part of the decision-making process. This, in turn, leads to healthier, better-protected local communities that help to bolster local economies, helping Main Street businesses thrive and grow.”*
- *“Transparency is fundamental to the ability of citizens to protect their health and to claim quality health care. Without it, we are left making assumptions based on wrong information that produce wrong decisions, which may be detrimental to our health and well-being. Transparency is also a key essential to be able to exercise our civic duty to monitor publicly supported services such as CCOs in this democracy.”  
(From **the Elders in Action Commission**)*
- *“**Cascade AIDS Project** supports HB 2960 and the efforts to promote transparency, public accountability, and consumer engagement in CCO meetings. These organizations, formed for the benefit of the more marginalized members of our communities, must be open to the public they serve for their work to be truly effective and implemented in a meaningful way.”*
- *“In this day of so-called "transparency" in government, it does seem quite appropriate that the CAC's be public meetings. The consumer will be required to trust those 'guarding the hen house.' (Chris Flammang, long time advocate, Coos Bay)*
- *"**Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates** strongly endorses the effort to ensure that Coordinated Care Organizations and their affiliated Community Advisory Councils hold their meetings in public. While MVHCA appreciates the proprietary nature of CCO budgets in regard to their private enterprise interests, we also believe that where public funds are involved, as is the case with Medicaid and OHP patients, the higher good of public interest requires open meetings and transparent decision-making."*

We appreciate your work to require that CCOs and their respective CACs use public, transparent processes that engage their community members as they work to transform the delivery system.

We, along with our colleagues, support amending SB 725 so that it would require that meetings of Community Advisory Councils are open to the public. Thank you for your consideration.



Liz Baxter, Executive Director  
We Can Do Better