

Consumer Voices for Coverage

Strengthening State Advocacy Networks to Expand Health Coverage

CVC News and Notes

August 2009

CVC Phase I Recent Policy Accomplishments

Despite budget deficits haunting almost every state, CVC grantees focused on state reform had some significant policy accomplishments and fended off cuts to programs.

We commend you all for your tireless efforts representing the consumer voice during this legislative session, these policy accomplishments emphasizes the important role that health advocates can continue to play in ensuring the needs of our most vulnerable residents are protected.

CVC advocates impacted legislation in several broad categories:

- [Adult Coverage Expansion](#)
- [Children's Coverage Expansion](#)
- [Cost Containment/Quality](#)
- [Delivery System Reform](#)
- [Financing Health Reform](#)
- [Improving Charity Care](#)
- [Medicaid Defense](#)
- [Non-Profit to For Profit Conversion](#)
- [Private Insurance Reform](#)

For detailed information about CVC efforts, link to the issue area.

August Recess and National Health Reform

We all know this is a critical juncture in national health reform, and August recess is the time when state advocates can make all the difference. In the coming weeks we expect to hear a lot of noise from the opposition and it's up to us to counter that noise with positive messages. We need to let the press and the public know that reform is moving forward; it is imperative for American families and essential for getting the economy on-track. We need to communicate that we want Congress to return in September and get the job done.

As you plan your calls, events, and meetings, we'll continue to provide messages and tools to support your efforts. As always, resources and information can be found on our [website](#).

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CVC Phase II

The six CVC Phase II states are funded specifically to work on national health reform. For the past seven months they have worked on three major areas: coalition-building, communications, and educating their Congressional delegation and staff. For examples of their national reform work, [click here](#).

REMINDER:

Mid-year financial reports are due on August 30th.

Please forward reports to your field coordinator, [Jacquie Anderson](#), and [Donna Pina Robinson](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Jacquie.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept. 30 - October 2
CVC Annual Conference
Philadelphia

Teeing Up for National Health Reform Implementation

The intense debate on national health reform currently taking place in Washington has captured the country's attention, but when the bill passes the real work will begin. The bill will provide an important blueprint for health reform, but the rulemaking process following its passage will provide the real key to ensuring that national health reform actually succeeds in making quality, affordable, sustainable health care available to all. And the regulatory aspect will by no means be the end of it.

[Click here for full article.](#)

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The "CVC Brand"

Consumer Voices for Coverage supports the important role that state-based consumer health advocacy plays in promoting innovative and comprehensive health reform efforts at the state and national levels.

Since the CVC program was implemented in February 2008, the number of groups working on health advocacy has significantly expanded and we thought it would be helpful to remind grantees, leadership teams and networks of CVC's unique contribution to the advocacy community and the importance of the "CVC brand."

The CVC brand isn't about a logo or image representing the program, but the key messages that describe CVC, why it's unique and how it's changing the way consumer advocates accomplish their goals.

Everyone who is a part of CVC – including grantees, leadership team members and NPO staff – should be able to clearly talk about the CVC model. Clearly articulating the CVC approach and how it has changed the way you approach your work is fundamental to demonstrating its impact and to building bridges to other health care stakeholders and elected officials who are key to expanding coverage.

What makes CVC unique?

Each state CVC grantee has unique qualities, but they all have certain characteristics in common:

- A focus on ensuring consumers are represented in health care reform debates
- A willingness to work with all stakeholders
- A willingness and ability to work on both federal and state health care reform
- A recognition that no one organization can fulfill all of the core capacities necessary - strong networks of organizations are needed to be successful in advocating for significant coverage expansions

For more details, [click here](#).

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Spotlight on Judi Hilman

Executive Director

Utah Health Policy Project, CVC Phase II Grantee

Judi is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating quality, comprehensive, affordable health care coverage for all Utah residents.

Prior to starting the UHPP, Judi served as Health Policy Director and Research Director for Utah Issues, Center for Poverty Research and Action.

In 2008 Judi was selected as one of the ten Community Health Leaders by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in recognition of her leadership in community organizing.

Born in Los Angeles, she was raised there and in Israel. She has her MA from Cornell University in History and BA (magna cum laude) from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied history of medicine and German literature.

Before coming to Utah in 1999 she oversaw development and strategic communications at a community rehabilitation agency serving people with disabilities in upstate New York.

Judi has authored numerous publications, including Utah's Poor: Solutions for Today's Economy, Making Sense of Utah Medicaid, and for Virtual Mentor, ethics journal of the American Medical Association.

