

Arkansas Federally-facilitated Exchange (FFE) Partnership

Monthly Report – March - April 20, 2012

Overall Status

March through mid-April was a key period in the establishment of teams, partners, and the planning effort for development of the Arkansas Federally-facilitated Exchange (FFE) Partnership. Key accomplishments include the “Kickoff” of the Steering Committee and related Advisory Committees, the anticipation to award announcements of two key Vendor initiatives (the QHP Services consultant and the Navigator Services consultant), and the development/submission of the Overall Project Management Plan. Additionally, the Navigator IT RFP was released with a due date of April 20th for the Vendor responses.

Additionally, key relationship-building steps were completed with the CCIIO/CMS team that will establish the ongoing working relationships with the FFE so that the Arkansas Partnership components will be implemented with seamless integration.

The Arkansas Legislative Council approved the Arkansas Insurance Department’s Miscellaneous Federal Grant appropriation request on April 20th, allowing spending of the \$7.7 million Level One Cooperative Agreement award funded by DHHS/CMS/CCIIO to advance FFE-Partnership planning efforts.

CCIIO/CMS Update

On March 8, 2012, AID was awarded an administrative supplement by CCIIO to the Exchange Planning Grant in order to survey carriers to determine promoters and barriers to FFE-Partnership participation and to further define quality metrics for rating qualified health plans in Arkansas.

On March 12, 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a [final rule on Affordable Health Insurance Exchanges](#), which combines policies from two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRMs) published last summer.

The last month has included a significant number of formal meetings with the CCIIO/CMS team in preparation for the first of three CCIIO/CMS Planning/Implementation Reviews – the Planning Review. The Planning Review was originally scheduled for April 17-18, but was subsequently rescheduled for May 17-18 in Bethesda, MD.

In preparation for the Planning Review the following set of meetings between various State of Arkansas and CCIIO/CMS staff occurred.

- **Introduction to Artifacts meeting (3/16)** – CCIIO introduced the Arkansas team to the initial documentation templates that are to be produced and presented within the Planning Review meeting.
- **Plan Management discussion (3/19)** – Introductory meeting with CCIIO Plan Management leadership with initial discussions regarding specific Plan Management functions – Essential

Health Benefits, Cost-Sharing, Purchasing Model, Network Adequacy, Marketing, Complaints, Licensure, Accreditation, Solvency, Form & Rate Review, and Quality Rating.

- **Launch Consultation and Establishment Review Orientation (3/21)** – The formal Orientation meeting between CCIIO/CMS and the State of Arkansas leadership team including a walkthrough of the CCIIO “Launch Pack” content and formal introductions of the CCIIO/CMS team that will be working with the State of Arkansas during the FFE partnership development effort.

In addition to the attendance at a series of CCIIO/CMS meetings, the CCIIO team also attended the Arkansas FFE Partnership Leadership “Kickoff” meeting held on April, 4.

Key upcoming events –

- Rescheduled CCIIO/CMS Planning Review meeting (May 17-18) in Bethesda with Arkansas participants including representatives from AID, ACHI, DHS, Governor’s Office.
- Exchange Grantee Conference in Washington D.C. (May 21-23)

Steering Committee/Advisory Committee Updates

The past month was a key period in the establishment of the Steering Committee and Advisory Committees including the development of Committee meeting schedules and the formation of the Advisory Committee “Topic Calendars”. The discussions/meetings during this timeframe included planning meetings of the Plan Management Advisory Committee Co-chairs with the QHP and Project Management consultants, the Insurance Commissioner and the Exchange Planning staff, as well as planning meetings of the Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee Co-chairs with the Navigator and Project Management consultants, the Insurance Commissioner and the Exchange Planning staff.

The other key meeting during this timeframe was the Leadership (Steering Committee and Advisory Committees members) “Kickoff” meeting on April 4th. This meeting was very well attended and was a significant positive step in formation of the FFE Partnership policy development infrastructure that is intended to support and maximize collaboration and the formation of policies that consider multiple State of Arkansas stakeholder viewpoints.

Key upcoming events –

- Initial Steering Committee meeting (4/26)
- Initial Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee meetings (May – see calendar for dates)
- Initial Plan Management Advisory Committee meetings (May – see calendar for dates)

Procurement Update

The FFE Partnership effort has been focused to date on three initial procurement efforts – QHP Services RFP, Navigator Services RFP, and Navigator IT RFP. Both the QHP Services RFP and the Navigator Services RFP were released in February, 2012. Subsequently, the evaluation activities were completed within the last month. Two separate Public Consulting Group (PCG) project teams were named anticipated awardees for both efforts. The project start date for both efforts was contingent upon the Legislative Council’s actions on April 20th; a contract start dates is expected the week of April 23rd. Initial planning activities have been completed with PCG for both efforts, working closely with the respective

Advisory Committees to develop the upcoming topic calendars. The PCG teams have also started development of the project schedules that will be completed and submitted to the Exchange Planning Team pending the Legislative Council approval. .

The Navigator IT RFP submission due date was April 20th and there were no submissions received. There is a meeting scheduled for April 25th to discuss the next steps going forward with the necessary actions to procure these services.

Key upcoming events –

- Reassessment of the Navigator IT Services RFP (4/25)
- Development and release of two additional RFPs for Evaluation Services & Communication/Outreach - TBD

Exchange Staffing Update

Pending the Legislative Review, the AID Exchange team developed 5 positions to join the AID Exchange Planning team leveraging the Federal Grant award. Those positions include the following -

- Grants/Contract/Financial Specialist
- Consumer Services Specialist
- Health Plan Quality Specialist
- Administrative Analyst
- Administrative Assistant Level III

Through the Federal Grant award, the Exchange Planning team has also engaged partner agencies within the state to establish the following additional support roles for the FFE partnership effort -

- (DIS) IT Liaison/Program Manager – Carder Hawkins
- (ACHI) Policy Consultant – Craig Wilson
- (UAMS) Community-Based Outreach Consultant – David Deere

Key upcoming events –

- AID Exchange Team Recruitment/Evaluation/Hiring tasks – Dates TBD

Key Risks/Issues

Below is a summary of submitted/open risks for the report period.

Risk	Category	Response Strategy	Status
Legislative Approval for the Federal Grant Appropriation	Organizational	The Federal Grant Appropriation was approved on April 20 th .	Closed

Below is a summary of submitted/open issues for the report period.

Issue	Classification	Status

Issue	Classification	Status

Key Meetings/Milestones

Meeting/Milestone	Type	Date
Introduction to Artifacts meeting	CCIIO/CMS meeting	03/16/12
Plan Management discussion	CCIIO/CMS meeting	03/19/12
Launch Consultation and Establishment Review Orientation	CCIIO/CMS meeting	03/21/12
Arkansas FFE Partnership Leadership “Kickoff” meeting	Steering Committee Advisory Committees	04/04/12
Legislative Review	Legislative	04/20/12
April Steering Committee Meeting	Steering Committee	04/26/12
CCIIO/NAIC SERFF Plan Management Meeting	Conference	05/03/12
May Plan Management Advisory Committee Meeting	Advisory Committee	05/04/12 05/11/12
CCIIO/CMS Planning Review	CCIIO/CMS meeting	05/17/12- 05/18/12
CCIIO Exchange Grantee Conference	CCIIO/CMS Conference	05/21/12- 05/23/12
May Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting	Advisory Committee	05/11/12
May Steering Committee Meeting	Steering Committee	05/24/12
UX 2014 Meeting	Conference	06/08/12