

Arkansas Federally-facilitated Exchange (FFE) Partnership

Monthly Report – April 21- May 18, 2012

Overall Status Summary

Accomplishments for this reporting period include the completion of the scheduled Advisory Committee meetings for the May topics planned for each committee and the preparation of findings and recommendations for submittal to the Steering Committee for the May 24th Steering Committee meeting.

The Office of State Procurement advised the planning team that the lack of response to the Navigator IT RFP met the state's definition of an "Unsuccessful Bid" and provided additional guidance instructing the team on the next steps to be taken for procuring the necessary services.

The state's FFE Partnership representatives successfully completed the first of three required federal reviews on May 17-18 at the CCIIO offices located in Bethesda, MD. This first review, the Planning Review, will be followed in approximately six (6) months by the Design Review and then the Implementation Review six (6) months following the Design Review.

The Arkansas Legislative Council requested a report of all AID contracts for FFE-Partnership planning. The report by Commissioner Bradford and review were accepted on May 18th.

Additionally, the four new Exchange Planning positions have been filled and all of the new staff will be in place by May 28th.

CCIIO/CMS Update

On May 16, 2012, the Center for Consumer Information & Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) released two new guidance documents related to the FFE Partnership model:

- The draft version of the [Exchange Blueprint](#) which also includes the application process for states entering a Partnership Exchange.
- [General Guidance on Federally-facilitated Exchanges that](#) includes guidance for both the full Federally-facilitated Exchange (FFE) and the FFE Partnership model.

Six states received CCIIO Implementation grants in the latest reporting period. A total of 34 states and DC have now accepted at least one Level One grant; Rhode Island and Washington have accepted Level Two funding.

The CCIIO/CMS Planning Review meeting in Bethesda, MD on May 17-18 was attended by state and vendor team representatives who presented to CCIIO the background of Arkansas's work thus far, the current status of the project, the upcoming timelines and questions currently pending across the project. CCIIO/CMS representatives continually emphasized their desire to be advised on activities, progress and hurdles faced by the project and their commitment to working with the state in providing guidance in the form of responding to questions and seeking resolution of any issues. CCIIO/CMS also noted numerous times that Arkansas was the first state they had met with who has opted for the FFE

Partnership model and they are very interested in working closely with the Arkansas team to operationalize that mode. The federal team emphasized their support for Arkansas's Stakeholder Engagement Process, and complemented the inclusive design as a model for others. Attendees onsite and via phone for Arkansas included: Jay Bradford, Joe Thompson, Cindy Crone, Andy Allison, Sheena Olsen, Dick Wyatt, Joni Jones, Linda Greer, Jennifer Flinn, Bruce Donaldson, Craig Wilson, Zane Chrisman, Will Roark, Carder Hawkins, David Sodergren (First Data), Kathy Grissom (First Data), LeAnn Rollans (First Data), Rich Albertoni (PCG), Jim Waldinger (PCG), Fred Forrer (PCG), and Brenda McCormick (PCG).

CCIIO provided conference call meetings on May 7 and May 14 regarding additional guidance sought for the SHOP component of the Exchange. Our CCIIO state representative, Emily Pedneau introduced the CCIIO SHOP lead assigned to Arkansas, Dean Mohs.

Bruce Donaldson (AID Exchange Planning Division) and Bob Alexander (AID Rate Review Division) attended a one day session in Kansas City on May 3 with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and CCIIO where NAIC presented their planned business model and key business requirements for the utilization of SERFF to integrate with CCIIO/CMS QHP review and processing requirements for QHPs. This model would reduce the potential technical development required by the AID for the interfacing of plan information.

Key upcoming events –

- Exchange Grantee Conference in Washington D.C. (May 21-23)
- UX 2014 Technical Guidelines presentation in San Francisco (June 8) – portions of this design work will be used in FFE design
- Regional Implementation Forum (Location TBD for Late July/Early August)

Steering Committee/Advisory Committee Updates

Both Advisory Committees completed their scheduled meetings and reviews for the May topics. The Plan Management Advisory Committee requested additional information regarding inclusion of Medicaid in the small group benefits comparison, stand alone plans and benefit supplementation. The addition of Medicaid in the small group comparison was provided to committee members on May 17. Questions regarding stand alone plans and benefit supplementation were presented to CCIIO at the Planning Review meeting May 17-18 and will be further discussed with CCIIO at the May 21-23 Grantee Meeting. These sub-topics within the Essential Health Benefit topic area will be on the agenda for the June Advisory Committee session in addition to the scheduled topic areas of Active Purchaser vs. Open Market. The Plan Management Committee plans to make a partial recommendation for Essential Health Benefits to the Steering Committee on May 18 for discussion at the May 24 Steering Committee meeting.

Key upcoming events –

- Steering Committee meeting (5/24)
- Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee meetings – (June – Navigator Certification Standards - see calendar for dates)

- Plan Management Advisory Committee meetings (June – Active Purchaser vs. Open Market see calendar for dates)

Procurement Update

The Navigator IT RFP submission due date was April 20th and there were no submissions received. The Exchange Planning team’s follow up with the vendor community and assessment by the Office of State Procurement (OSP) resulted in OSP issuing an Unsuccessful Bid Letter to AID. The Unsuccessful Bid letter advises AID to issue a Request for Information (RFI) seeking recommended solutions within the realm of the defined requirements to determine a best fit through the RFI responses and possible subsequent demonstrations by vendors. Per OSP, AID can then negotiate a “reasonable pricing structure” with the vendor determined to have the best fit and, subject to approval of the negotiations, a contract can be issued.

Key upcoming events –

- Posting of Navigator IT Services RFI (Week of May 21)

Exchange Staff Update

The AID Exchange team has successfully filled four of the five approved agency positions (the Administrative Analyst position is in negotiation):

- Financial Specialist – Will Roark, MA - Start Date May 7
- Consumer Assistance Specialist – Sandra Cook, MPA - Start Date May 28
- Health Plan Quality Specialist – Zane Chrisman, JD – Start Date May 7
- Administrative Assistant III – Julie Chavez - Start Date May 21

Through the Federal Level One Grant funding, the Exchange Planning team has completed necessary inter-agency agreements for the following additional support roles for the FFE partnership effort -

- (DIS) IT Liaison/Program Manager – Carder Hawkins – 100% assigned to the Exchange Planning effort
- (UCA) Market Place Research on Promoters/Barriers to Carrier Participation in FFE Partnership – Dr. Victor Puleo, lead researcher

Interagency contracts are pending with the following agencies for FFE Planning:

- (UAMS- ACHI) Policy and Quality Assessment Consultation – Level One funding - Craig Wilson lead; Small Business Outreach (Planning and Level One funding)
- (UAMS Partners for Inclusive Communities) Community-Based Outreach Consultation - Level One funding (Planning funds contract still active) – David Deere, lead

The AID Exchange team will begin bi-weekly status meetings on Thursday, May, 24. These bi-weekly meetings will be attended by the AID Exchange team staff, contracted vendors, and other resources associated through intra-agency and interagency agreements. Meetings will be used to discuss overall project status across all project components and for monitoring of project activities against the project

work plan. Project risks and issues will also be reviewed during these meetings for pending resolutions or ongoing monitoring as appropriate.

A routine monthly progress/consultation meeting attended by State and Federal leadership will be initiated in June.

Key upcoming events –

- Completion of filling the Administrative Analyst position

Key Risks/Issues

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

Risk	Category	Response Strategy	Status
The Federal Funding model coupled with the State of Arkansas spending authorization model creates the need for multiple spending approval cycles plus introduces the possibility of available federal funds without the authority to spend.	Organizational	Evaluate impact of CCIIO review process on the release of IT funds with CCIIO Develop subsequent Grant requests well in advance of the full allocation of current grant monies	Open

Key Meetings/Milestones Completed

Meeting/Milestone	Type	Date
April Steering Committee Meeting	Steering Committee	04/26/12
CCIIO/NAIC SERFF Plan Management Meeting	Conference	05/03/12
May Plan Management Advisory Committee Meetings	Advisory Committee	05/04/12 05/11/12
May Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting	Advisory Committee	05/11/12
CCIIO/CMS Planning Review	CCIIO/CMS meeting	05/17/12- 05/18/12

Key Meetings/Milestones Upcoming

Meeting/Milestone	Type	Date
CCIIO Exchange Grantee Conference	CCIIO/CMS Conference	05/21/12-

Meeting/Milestone	Type	Date
		05/23/12
May Steering Committee Meeting	Steering Committee	05/24/12
June Plan Management Advisory Committee Meeting	Advisory Committee	06/08/12
June Consumer Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting	Advisory Committee	06/08/12
UX 2014 Meeting	Conference	06/08/12