



SMC Business Councils
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SMC Government Relations Committee
Health Care/ Labor/Regulation/Workforce Working Group Conference Call
Brief Notes Embedded in Blue
Thursday, February 1, 2018
2:00 - 3:00 PM

I. Welcome and Introductions, Eileen Anderson, Director, Government Relations, *Attending: David Ross, Judy Wojanis, Eileen Anderson*

II. Brief Update - State Health Care - What we decided to pursue to date. *See Brief Notes from 12/19/2017 meeting for detail.*

- PA Health Care Cost Containment Council Reauthorization
- Surprise Balance Billing
 - **STATUS: SUPPORT**

III. Brief Update - State Labor Issues and Legislation - What we decided to pursue to date. *See Brief Notes from 12/19/2017 meeting for detail.*

- Workers Comp Drug Formulary- report on drug formulary from the PA COC
- Protz Case- Impairment Rating Evaluations (IREs)
 - **STATUS: SUPPORT**

IV. Discussion - State Regulation Legislation (NOTE: Regulations will move to the Energy & Environment Committee in the future).

- Gives the legislature the ability to initiate repeal of any state regulation in effect by concurrent resolution.
 - **STATUS: SUPPORT**
- Requires the General Assembly to vote on a concurrent resolution to approve an “economically significant regulation” (an annual fiscal impact totaling \$1 million or more on the government or private sector) in order for that regulation to go into effect.
 - **STATUS: SUPPORT**

V. Update - Federal Health Care

- President Trump’s Executive Order - Association Health Plans
 - Comments on Ruling - National Small Business Association(NSBA)
- Monitor the individual insurance market - Cost Sharing and the Individual Mandate penalty have been eliminated which will drive insurance premiums up and up.
- **GROUP:** *Discussion was very limited. There is no clear direction coming from the Administration, U.S. House of Representatives, or the U.S. Senate regarding health care.*
 - *The group wondered what impact the new Amazon.com, Berkshire Hathaway, and JP Morgan Chase joint effort would have on health care. The three companies plan to start their own new non-profit company in a bid to reduce health care spending for their hundreds of thousands of U.S. employees.*

VI. New Business - Workforce legislation from the Michigan House of Representatives and passage of Skilled Trades bills package

- <http://www.michigan.gov/localgov/0,4602,7-194-26846-408573--,00.html>

No discussion. Anderson will research.

VII. Action Steps - Something concrete that the group can undertake

- Education of employers so they can educate their employees - Example - “Choosing Wisely: “5 Questions to ask Your Doctor”, SMC job board
- **ANDERSON:** *Briefly highlighted SMC’s proposed workforce strategy built around a job board and a new workforce development staff person. This kicked off a great deal of discussion. The discussion touched on some key points and challenges.*
- **GROUP:** *Some of the following points were highlighted during the “roundtable” discussion:*
 - *There is great uncertainty RE: how many workers are needed for what jobs.*
 - *There are many players, and each seems to be doing something different and the efforts are not coordinated. Players mentioned included:*
 - *Community College of Allegheny County*
 - *Catalyst Connection*
 - *Allegheny Conference on Community Development*
 - *Westmoreland County Community College*
 - *Pittsburgh Regional Alliance*
 - *Energy Innovation Center*
 - *And now the entry of SMC Business Councils into the workforce development area*
- **GROUP:** *There is a need for a centralized structure to serve as the umbrella under which all the fragmented efforts of the various players can be coordinated.*
- **ANDERSON:** *It will require collaboration among competitive, territorial partners.*
- **GROUP:** *The two key points for an overall collaborative effort are:*
 - *The candidates need to know what jobs are needed.*
 - *The employers need to know where they can find funds to continue training on the job and where they can find workers*
 - *Currently the candidates and the employers are not aware of what’s available.*
- **GROUP:** *Emphasized the need to reach those in high school before career decisions are made*
 - *CCAC for example can go into the high schools to reach students*
 - *Students can go to a one-year trade school*
 - *That way they are forming a career pathway*
 - *The hurdles are numerous and varied. Several challenges include the following:*
 - *No car/no transportation/no driver’s license for individual transportation*
 - *Lack of appropriate clothing for a job interview*
 - *Inadequate mass transit*
 - *The Shell Ethane Cracker plant is a good illustration of this problem It will provide 500-600 jobs however there is no mass transit. How will workers get to the Shell plant?*
 - *Less than desirable background*
 - *A program is required for people who have a background that is less than desirable such as a record of not paying court fines or not paying child support etc.*
 - *Society can save billions if they can remove some of the hurdles that block people from training and employment.*
- **GROUP:** *How will employers/candidates know to go to SMC’s Job Board?*

- *It will require a strong marketing campaign to gain traction since there are numerous job boards in the region.*
- **GROUP:** *A proposed solution:*
 - *A regional approach is required because organizations are duplicating efforts and many models are similar. SMC should not recreate the wheel. What's needed is a regional organization like the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust that can serve as the umbrella for all the fragmented workforce efforts.*
 - *It should be a pathway that follows candidates from the beginning to end.*
 - *The funding and efforts must be centralized.*
 - *Which organization can undertake the role of the central organizer for a collaborative effort?*
- **ACTION:** *The group agreed to reconvene on February 20, 8:00 AM, face-to-face meeting at SMC, Cranberry to develop and propose a regional work force strategy.*

VIII. Next step –2018 agenda development

- Identify items to send to the full Government Committee - *Completed apart from workforce.*
- **February Government Committee meeting** - Date & Time TBD Mid-February
- **Putting the SMC agenda in Action - Harrisburg Grassroots Lobbying Trip, April 30, 2018, 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM.** Seeking travelers and sponsors.

IX. Miscellaneous - Greater Pittsburgh COC "First Friday," 2/2/2018 at 8:00 AM. 11 Stanwix. No Fee. Guest speaker is Michael Lamb.