

High Road Health Care Charrette Program Agenda

Service Employees International Union Office

1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C.

November 29 – 30, 2007

All events at SEIU Conference Room 1026M – First Floor

Thursday, November 29:

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Reception (drinks and light refreshments)

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Dinner

Dinnertime welcome and introduction to the event

Friday, November 30:

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee and pastries

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

What are major restructuring trends in the health care industry, management strategies, and past union response?

Questions to focus discussion: What are the most salient trends in health care industry restructuring? What/who are the major drivers of reform (feds, states, insurance industry, doctors/provider groups, others)? Within in each of the major subsectors – hospitals, clinics, and long term care – are there distinct critical restructuring trends? When has union response been at the forefront of restructuring or has it been largely responsive to it?

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

How might serious health insurance, quality control, and cost containment reform, of the sort that now seems imminent in national politics, change these trends?

Questions to focus discussion: How will national health care reform most likely play out in the next 2 to 4 years? Will national health reform redirect health care restructuring already discussed or move it along more rapidly? What opportunities for workers are there in this moment of reform? Are there specific changes that must be made in union structures and strategy in order to realize the opportunities of reform? What are the most obvious pitfalls for workers in reform?

11:00 – 11:15 p.m.

Break

11:15 – 12:30 p.m.

What does the research tell us about the contribution workers and worker organizations can make on cost, quality, and efficiency in health care delivery?

Questions to focus discussion: What research presents the strongest evidence on workers' contributions to quality and efficiency in each of the major health care subsectors – hospitals, clinics, and long term care? Where are these contributions of sufficient scale to help build a strong case for workers' role in pursuing reform? What can be learned from instances where research and workers interest are already aligned (thinking specifically of shift to home health and public agency models for delivery, and other similar examples)?

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 – 3:15 p.m.

What are the current/expected high-road restructuring possibilities in the health care industry, and what would these require from management, labor, and government?

Questions to focus discussion: What are the best examples of success in high-road restructuring? Will these examples survive in the context of continuing restructuring and reform? Can these examples be strengthened and extended? What lessons for union strategy are most evident in these successes?

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

What are the policy and practice conclusions from the discussions today? What new research might help better answer the questions identified today? Where would stronger connections between industry scholars and SEIU help advance interests of both scholars and SEIU?