Public Policy Meeting

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# Meeting details

The public policy meeting organized by Texas Health Policy Institute was part of the series related to health policy course week. The meeting under discussion relates to the fourth week of the health policy course. This meeting was held at the Third Coast Restaurant, located on the top floor of Texas Medical Centre Building. This meeting was held on February 5th, 2019 whereas its proceedings were published on February 7th, 2019.

## Purpose

This meeting was the fourth session of the health policy issues series, sponsored by health policy institute. The participants of the meeting deliberated on the issues of access, which they believe is a pressing concern in health and medical care.

## Participants

Steven Linder, Dr. Ben Raymer, Dr. Laura Rudkin, Sapna Kaul, Dr. Rudd, Dr. Cara Pennell

## Agenda item

The distinguished panel focused on the issues of access to health care. The guest speakers elaborated on issues of access to healthcare. The agenda item was part of the series on teaching fundamental concepts related to evaluation, development, and implementation of U.S health policy in an innovative manner.

## Meeting logistics

The meeting logistics were arranged by the Texas Medical Centre.

# Background Information and committee description

The latest meeting held as part of the series, the Health Policy Institute planned to produce seminar sessions. This meeting was fourth of the thirteen seminar series. Like other planned session, this session was held by Dr. Ben Raymer. Apart from the moderator, the session included three experts who shared their experience about the issues of access to basic medical and health care facilities their community people faced. This session was part of the Policy topics in the United States health care system. the committee members for the competing course includes Chuck Begley, Trevor Burt, Joslyn (Joey) Fisher, Tanweer Kaleemullah, Peggy Landrum, Jessica Mantel, Aisha Morris, Binata Mukherjee, Ben Raimer, Frances (Lee) Revere, Rocaille Roberts, Umair Shah, Abida Solomon, Sujit Sansgiry.

# The topic addressed and the committee process

The topic addressed in the session under discussion pertained to ‘Access Issues’ in the United States health system. The committee was introduced and moderated by Dr. Ben Raymer after which Dr. Laura Rudkin, Sapna Kaul, and Dr. Cara Pennell highlighted the issues of access they believe are pressing concerns among the health care practitioners in the United States (*2019 TMC Health Policy Course Week 4*, n.d.). They have worked previously in collaboration with Texas Medical health policy Institute in addressing such concerns.

# Stakeholder positions

## Laura Rudkin

Lara Rudkin has been the chair of the department of preventive care. At her turn after introduction by Ben Raymer, she described the efforts been carried for expanding the preventive care system. She elaborated the preventive health care concept in the light of the population-related data, which she believe forecast astonishing results. For example, one of the latest datasheets, she referred toward was of 2018. She was of the view that under stressful economic conditions and absence of general medic aid, it is quite impossible to further the preventive care goals, especially in preventing chronic diseases. She has also elaborated this point of view in her latest publication as well (Aelion et al., 2016). She necessitated the importance of under insurance, which she believes is a stepping stone toward expanding the preventive care system to include the treatment of chronic diseases as well.

## Sapna Kaul

Spna Kaul is an expert on economics in health care. At this session, she elaborated about the affordable health care act and the uninsured population. She believes that the health care act needs to be more customized based on the adult and younger population needs. She elaborated the examples of some areas in United States, where she believes that the situation might get more complicated if the affordable care act remains in the position of not addressing certain requirements of the intended population. Such systematic review is part of her previous publications as well (Rodriguez et al., 2019).

## Cara Pennell

Cara Pennell shed light over the nonprofit hospitals and community and what are their benefits. Although she believes that it is her narrow area of expertise but she elaborated this concept, in more of the kind of authoritative manner. She believes that non- profit hospitals are serving better, compared to the hospitals which often remain successful in getting state-sponsored aid and medications (Siañez, Pennel, Tamayo, & Wells, 2018). She spoke that unless the nonprofit hospitals are not been regularized and are extended state sponsorship, they might not end up being so careless toward patient care.

# Interactions

During the final, some minutes of the session, students and policy analysts moderated some questions more specific to what the recommendations, the panel has to benefit the large population of the country. Some of the participants resorted to asking about elaborating the core of their speeches since the presentation was a bit informal. Some of them questioned about how their intended programs or policies can benefit the general population. Apart from these questions, some audience was interested in suggesting the reforms in the health care system, since they believe that the inherent flaw exists in the state supervision of the health care system and not in nonprofit or profit-oriented hospitals.

# Outcomes

Since it was the fourth session of the course work, it provided an analysis of how the issues of access to health care in the United States can be addressed. The panel deliberated upon the topic in different manners and presented a new dimension to the widely discussed and most sort out topic. Compared to the course module, the session was more interactive and provided an opportunity for the participants to grasp some new debates encircling this subject.

# References:

*2019 TMC Health Policy Course Week 4: Access to Care and Health Insurance Coverage*. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r61KACOdCa8&feature=youtu.be

Aelion, C. M., Airhihenbuwa, C. O., Alemagno, S., Amler, R. W., Arnett, D. K., Balas, A., … Brandt-Rauf, P. (2016). The US cancer moonshot initiative. *The Lancet Oncology*, *17*(5), e178–e180.

Rodriguez, A. M., Do, T. Q. N., Goodman, M., Schmeler, K. M., Kaul, S., & Kuo, Y.-F. (2019). Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Interventions in the US: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

Siañez, M., Pennel, C., Tamayo, L., & Wells, R. (2018). Navigating medically complex patients through system barriers: Patients’ perspectives on care coordination. *International Journal of Care Coordination*, *21*(4), 160–169.