



2000-2002 STATE HEALTH PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Overview: The introduction contains a letter from the Health Care Authority Chairman and thoughts from two members of the State Health Plan process.

Bob Wise
Governor



Sam G. Kapourales
Chairman

Paul L. Nusbaum, Secretary
West Virginia Department of
Health and Human Resources

Board Members
D. Parker Haddix
Louie A. Paterno, Jr.

March 21, 2001

Dear Fellow West Virginians:

With so many profound changes occurring in the delivery and financing of health care in West Virginia and the nation, it is important to have a unified planning document to address many of the complex health care issues faced by health care providers, purchasers, regulators, and consumers. The 2000-2002 State Health Plan provides a common framework and policy blueprint for this action to occur. Using this Plan and a collaborative approach to health care issues, we can identify and address ways to improve health status and the efficiency and effectiveness of the health care system in West Virginia.

It is our hope that the State Health Plan will enable our health care system to develop in an organized, cost effective manner so that sufficient health care resources can be offered to meet the needs of West Virginians. We also hope that use of the State Health Plan by the public and private sectors will encourage greater flexibility in working cooperatively and fostering coordination to obtain needed health care resources.

I am pleased with the good work of the hundreds of West Virginians who have participated in the development and implementation of the 2000-2002 State Health Plan. The leadership provided by 19 organizations who have established public and private partnerships to creatively address issues related to the implementation of the 31 State Health Plan policies has been impressive, as identified in the accomplishments and challenges included in the first 2000-2002 State Health Plan Annual Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam G. Kapourales". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sam G. Kapourales
Chairman

SGK:lg

The State Health Plan for West Virginia

The State Health Plan for West Virginia represents a “working blueprint” for the improvement of health for West Virginians. There are many features that distinguish this plan but none are more important than its commitment to making a difference in the life and aspirations of our citizens.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Health Care Authority as the facilitator of critical meetings in this process, including the State Health Plan Summit. This provides me the perspective to share a few observations.

From the very beginning the leadership of the Health Care Authority dedicated themselves to providing leadership for the creation of a meaningful State Health Plan. They were committed to the proposition that the Plan would not be a book to gather dust on a shelf but rather a dynamic working agenda for improving the health of West Virginians.

This approach has worked because a large group of dedicated professionals joined in a public-private dialogue to create a meaningful, action-oriented plan.

The resulting report was not considered an ending place but a plan requiring on-going attention. The same group of public and private agencies that assisted in development of the plan has accepted the responsibility to implement the action agendas in the Plan.

This first annual report is a work in progress. That is how it should be. The issues and challenges in the Plan require our constant attention.

Progress, on critical yet difficult issues, will occur only if we join together to address those matters. This report describes that progress and candidly notes where increased attention is needed.

I believe West Virginia has established a model for how state health plans might be approached. This action-oriented program works because it calls us to plan together and to work diligently to implement our vision for a healthier West Virginia.

Neil S. Bucklew
Professor and Past President
West Virginia University

The State Health Plan Process

Key features demonstrate the excellence of the State Health Plan process.

- Consistent leadership from issue selection to the formation of the State Health Plan has been a valuable asset in the process.
- Movement to the next step of implementing the State Health Plan in West Virginia communities allows the Plan to have a tangible impact.
- Continuity in the membership of the State Health Plan process, including original members and others invited during implementation, strengthens the effort.
- Implementation of a plan such as the State Health Plan is a new effort.

I am impressed with the efforts of all of the individuals involved in the State Health Plan process, especially their commitment to implement the Plan and then utilize the results of implementation to shape the next Plan.

Dallas Bailey
Director
Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families

