Guiding Principles for CT Health Reform

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IOM PRINCIPLES

• Health care coverage should be universal.

• Health care coverage should be continuous.

• Health care coverage should be affordable to individuals and families.

• The health insurance strategy should be affordable and sustainable for society.

• Health insurance should enhance health and well-being by promoting access to high-quality care that is effective, efficient, safe, timely, patient-centered, and equitable.
UNIVERSAL COVERAGE

- **motivation** for people to get and keep coverage
  - e.g., mandate or automatic enrollment
- **definition** of what constitutes coverage
- **infrastructure** thru which people can get coverage
  - e.g., employers, insurance agents and brokers, public programs, “connectors”
- **assistance** for low-income and high-risk residents
  - e.g., public subsidy, risk spreading
- **sustainable funding** mechanism(s).
CONTINUOUS COVERAGE

Requires attention to:

• **transitions** between coverage options
  – e.g., income changes that trigger eligibility for public subsidy, health status changes

• **funding mechanism** that minimizes the risk of cutbacks in the future

• explicit **attention to cost** to maintain affordability
AFFORDABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Affordability is influenced by

• income
• health status
• structure of coverage as well as premiums
  — co-pays, deductibles, out-of-pocket limits, lifetime limits
• benefits
  — mental health, oral health, prescription drugs, preventive care, wellness promotion
AFFORDABLE & SUSTAINABLE FOR SOCIETY

- What share of the cost will be borne by the state?
- How will the state share be funded?
- How will funding be maintained in face of the year-to-year challenge to balance state budgets?
- Cost containment and efficiency are critical for sustainability.
ENHANCE HEALTH & WELL-BEING

• Applies to existing coverage as well as expansions.

• Financing should provide the incentives for
  – caregivers to provide efficient, high value care
  – residents to take responsibility for their health and use care wisely.

• Policies that affect caregivers should be attractive enough to induce both reasonable availability of care and willingness to undertake value enhancing activities.

• Providers and residents both need systematic support, including information, oversight, and feedback.

• Establishing and maintaining the correct price signals will contribute to achieving high-value care.