



“The Heart in Health Care Reform”

PowerPoint Narration

Slide 1: “A Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care” and Health Care Reform 2010 is presented by Faithful Reform in Health Care.

Slide 2: We begin with “A Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care.”

- An interfaith statement of values that informed our thinking about health care reform throughout the process.
- A vision signed by nearly 400 faith organizations & thousands of individuals.

Slide 3: “A Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care” states:

- As people of faith, we envision a society where each person is afforded health, wholeness, and human dignity.
- This vision embraces a system of health care that is... inclusive, affordable, accessible, and accountable.

Slide 4: Imagine U.S. health care as an old family homestead, assembled over 150 years... remodeled with a complex jumble of laws, policies, traditions, programs, practices, technologies, & bureaucracies... some of which were neither designed nor intended to work together. Some in the family still find the house quite comfortable. But others find it disgraceful; some feel insecure in it; some feel unwelcome; some have been harmed in it; others have been excluded.

Slide 5: This structure – U.S. health care – is expensive & deteriorating. It causes harm to many of the family members who call it home... and to those who remain outside. It is deeply anchored in our society, leaving us fearful of change, and worried about the impact of pulling up anchor.

Slide 6: This structure is an example of chronic social injustice.

Injustice points to:

- relationships that are out of balance, and...
- structures that support the imbalance because they are not aligned with deeply shared values that affirm the common good.

Slide 7: Injustice is social when it penetrates the hearts, minds and imagination of our society, and is embedded in our language, symbols, laws, and institutions. It is chronic social injustice persists over a long period of time. It is deeply anchored in our culture; it is inherited. There is no single villain; there is no accountable reformer.

Slide 8: At numerous times in U.S. history, we have identified conditions of chronic social injustice & have worked to reform that reality to...

- end child labor
- give voting rights to women
- enact civil rights for African Americans

Slide 9: The work to address such injustice begins in the hearts and minds of those who share a new vision of what it means to live in right relationships and to build structures that support new systems which contribute to the common good.

Slide 10: Over the last 50 years, the vision for our national infrastructure led to investments in a power grid, phone systems, water systems, and interstate highways. The common good has been served. Society as a whole and the individuals within it flourished.

Slide 11: However, our health system is stuck in the 1940s – like the old family homestead, at the end of a meandering country road, with a private well and an individual generator, and in need of repair. The Affordable Care Act is our first step toward building a system of health care – moving us toward a vision of a new dwelling that includes and works well for all of us.

Slide 12: “A Faith-Inspired Vision of Health Care” describes this new system.

- It is based on the shared values from our sacred texts, and...
- It serves as a measure for legislative progress for moving us toward our vision.

How did health care reform in 2010 measure up?

Slide 13: For the first time ever in our decades of debate about reforming U.S. health care, bills were passed by all 5 Congressional committees of jurisdiction and both chambers of Congress... all with numerous amendments from both parties!

Slide 14: On March 23, 2010, the President signed into law the “Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act.”

Slide 15: How far did we move toward our Vision of... inclusive, affordable, accessible, accountable health care for all? We will consider the legislation through these four parts of our vision.

Slide 16: Vision ~ Inclusive Health Care: Health care is a shared responsibility that is grounded in our common humanity.

Key words that point to faith values in inclusive health care are:

- Created to be equal
- Dignity
- Community
- Common good
- Care for one another
- Compassion

Slide 17: Provisions in the new law that advance an inclusive health care future begin with a federal legislative commitment to include almost everyone in our health care system.

Beginning this year, children cannot be excluded from coverage because of pre-existing conditions. By 2014, no one can be excluded from coverage because of pre-existing conditions.

Slide 18: Young adults may remain in parental dependent coverage until age 26 (in plans that begin after 9/23/10). [559,000 young adults in Missouri]

By 2014, Medicaid will be available to many more low-income families.

Slide 19: Vision ~ Affordable health care: Health care must contribute to the common good by being affordable for individuals, families and society as a whole.

Key words that point to faith values in affordable health care include:

- Abundant resources
- Faithful stewards
- Responsibility
- Equity

Slide 20: Small businesses (including non-profits) may receive tax credits this year to help buy insurance for their employees.

This year, persons who have been uninsured for 6 months because of pre-existing conditions may purchase insurance in new national or state-sponsored high-risk pools.

Slide 21: Senior adults enrolled in Medicare will receive preventive care with no cost sharing beginning in 2011.

Senior adults who reach the gap (doughnut hole) in their Medicare prescription drug coverage will be entitled to a \$250 rebate this year, and generous discounts next year. The gap will be eliminated in ten years.

Slide 22: Exchanges (marketplaces) will be established in 2014 where individuals and small businesses may purchase affordable insurance. Premium & cost-sharing subsidies will be provided in 2014 to help low and middle income people purchase insurance.

Slide 23: Vision ~ Accessible health care: All persons should have access to health services that provide necessary care and contribute to wellness.

Key words that point to faith values in accessible health care:

- Humanity is sacred
- Justice & love
- Fullness of our potential
- Overcome all barriers & disparities

Slide 24: Standard benefits will be defined for all health plans in the exchanges (and new plans), including services often excluded from insurance coverage:

- mental & behavioral health
- rehabilitation
- prevention & wellness
- maternity & new born
- chronic disease management
- prescription drugs
- and more!

Slide 25: Incentives in medical education are designed to increase the number of primary care physicians and nurses.

Financial assistance for the elderly & persons with disabilities who wish to remain in their homes & communities will be available through a new national insurance program.

Slide 26: Increased funding for community health centers will nearly double the number of persons who receive health care in under-served areas.

To reduce disparities in access to & delivery of health care, attention will be given to increasing the racial & ethnic diversity & cultural competency of medical professionals.

Slide 27: Our health care system must be accountable, offering a quality, equitable and sustainable means of keeping us healthy as individuals and as a community.

Key words that point to faith values in accountable health care:

- Care of our bodies
- Care for one another
- Work in partnership
- Quality and safe care

Slide 28: Individuals will share responsibility for their health care by contributing a fair share & by placing an emphasis on wellness, prevention & self-care.

Members of Congress & their staff will purchase their insurance in the same exchanges as millions of Americans & small businesses.

More employers will share responsibility for workers' insurance.

Slide 29: New standards are set for the % of premiums (the medical loss ratio) that insurers must spend on medical care, rather than excess paperwork and profit.

New practices will address quality, waste, fraud, abuse & errors within the delivery of health care.

New incentives will focus on payment for improved outcomes, rather than on quantity of services.

Slide 30: Where does the new law fall short of our Vision? What challenges to justice remain? What still needs to be done?

Slide 31: To answer those questions, we are reminded of the need to measure our progress against the age-old “moral test” of a society:

How do we treat those who are in:

- The dawn of life - the children?
- The twilight of life - the elderly?
- The shadow of life - the sick, needy, or differently-abled?

Slide 32: Justice questions guide our thinking:

- Who is included? Who is still excluded?
- Who pays? Who profits? Who profits at the expense of those who cannot pay?
- Whose voices are/were heard? Whose are/were not?
- Who is accountable? And to whom?

Slide 33: Where will we continue the search for justice in health care?

We'll identify 6 key issues to remind us that the work of justice is on-going.

- 1) Some children will remain uninsured because of their states' programs.
- 2) The absence of a public option compromises any guarantee of affordable premiums for everyone.

Slide 34:

- 3) Raising Medicaid eligibility does not automatically guarantee access to medical professionals. Low levels of reimbursement to Medicaid & Medicare providers can result in some refusing to accept Medicaid or Medicare patients.
- 4) Industry and provider lobbies still have undue access to and power over legislators and regulators.

Slide 35:

- 5) Excessive documentation may create barriers for some citizens who:
 - live in rural areas
 - were born at home
 - never received a birth certificate
 - were displaced by natural disasters (such as Hurricane Katrina)
 - live in a mixed-status family.

- 6) Legal immigrants who work, pay taxes, & contribute to society are barred from Medicaid for 5 years. Undocumented persons cannot buy insurance in the exchanges – even with their own funds.

Slide 36: In 2010, we said NO MORE to a system of health care that does not work for everyone... AND... We made legislative progress that offers a hope-filled path forward, and may help change how we think about our health care future.

Slide 37: Principle of universality: In 2010, we affirmed the heart of the 2004 Institute of Medicine Report: Universal coverage will be achieved only when the principle of universality is embodied in federal public policy.

Slide 38: Greater shared responsibility: ALL of us – Individuals – Institutions – Business – Government - will now share greater responsibility for working together to make the system of U.S. health care work for ALL of us.

Slide 39: Greater accountability: ALL of us will be held accountable:

- individuals for self-care & insurance
- insurers for how they spend our premium dollars
- employers for workers' benefits providers for quality
- governments for regulation & oversight.

Slide 40: People of faith have been at the heart of our country's health care past as they...

- Built hospitals
- Offered pastoral care
- Provided charity care
- Trained health professionals
- Sponsored prevention and substance-abuse programs
- And more.

Slide 41: People of faith now are called to help pave the path forward with a shared vision & affirmation that providing needed health care is first and foremost a people issue and a moral imperative.

Slide 42: And... to help pave the path forward with their... Ability to transcend partisanship & to dialogue around shared values on behalf of the common good.

Slide 43: Our Vision Statement helps guide these efforts and shapes our discussion about how we design a system of health care that includes everyone and works well for all of us – and how the faith community can help make that happen.

Slide 44: But just as important is the role of shaping our public conscience. It is about the soul of our nation & our ability to demonstrate our concern for our brothers & sisters in our national community.

Slide 45: What to do... Short-term:

- Continue to reach out to Congress with calls, letters, visits & more.
- Be a part of the “truth squad” through education & conversation.

Slide 46: What to do... Short-term:

- Acquaint yourself & your friends with www.healthcare.gov, the one-stop website sponsored by the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services to explain how you can access the benefits of the new law.

Slide 47: What to do... Long-term:

- Recognize that social change is a process that takes years to fulfill.
- Participate in education, dialogue, & advocacy around implementation, improvements, & state reforms.
- Help resist the opposition.
- Commit to staying involved.

Slide 48: And finally, over the long-term, people of faith will need to:

- Discern what faith values (not politics or economic self-interests) inform their thinking.
and
- Contribute to the transformation that faithfully answers the question: Am I my brothers’/sisters’ keeper?

Slide 49: For more information, check the websites of:

Faithful Reform in Health Care
<http://www.faithfulreform.org>

HealthCare.gov
CuidadoDeSalud.gov
<http://www.healthcare.gov>
<http://www.cuidadodesalud.gov>

Kaiser Family Foundation
<http://www.kff.org>
<http://www.healthreform.org>