



COASTAL NEWS

Coastal Association of Health Underwriters

December 2008

President's Report

Mark Waugh



Happy Holidays to everyone! For those who did not attend our December 5th **Annual Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction** to benefit **Tileston Health Clinic**, what fun and food you missed! Blessed with perfect weather, we enjoyed steamed oysters, fried turkeys cooked by **Christ Benedict**, along with a variety of side dishes and desserts brought by CAHU members and spouses/significant others. A HUGE "**Thank you**" goes to **Dennis and Sharon Stokley** for hosting this year's event, and a **special thanks** to **Evan Sherbine** and the many members and businesses who made donations for our Silent Auction. **We raised \$579.00**—up \$179 from 2007!! Even Trish Doyle, Tileston's executive director, was bidding! The auction funds are used to provide bottled water for Tileston patients.



Numerous "holiday spirits" filled the rooms and back yard at the home of Dennis and Sharon Stokley as CAHU celebrated the season of giving by raising money for Tileston Health Clinic.

Our next meeting is January 22 at 11:45 at our NEW VENUE, the Hanover Seaside Club in Wrightsville Beach. We will need to get a close count of attendees a few days prior.

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RSVP will be required for Hanover Seaside Club



We need everyone's participation in HUPAC!

This article is from the December 30th NAHU Newswire...

Obama's transition team engages public on healthcare reform.

The [New York Times](#) (12/30, A15, Driehaus) reports, "Former Senator Tom Daschle, whom President-elect Barack Obama has" selected "to be secretary of Health and Human Services and director of the new White House Office of Health Reform," attended "a community meeting Monday where he got an earful about expenses that were too high and coverage that was too little." The meeting, held in Indiana, "was one of thousands on healthcare being held around the country...and the first attended by Mr. Daschle."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/30, A3, Connolly) adds, "Even before taking office or introducing concrete policy proposals, the administration-in-waiting is moving to build public support around the broad notion that the U.S. health system needs an overhaul." In doing so, "Obama is betting that the energetic, technology-savvy supporters who fueled his candidacy will act as a potent counter-balance to the traditionally powerful special interests that have defeated similar reform efforts." Chip Kahn, president of the Federation of American Hospitals, noted, however, that "this month's sessions are geared mainly toward Obama's core supporters; a group predisposed to embrace the effort." Meanwhile, one attendee said that "the gatherings are less about concrete policy solutions and more a demonstration that 'we're here, and we're ready to work.'"

"Obama's transition team is asking people who log into their website...to set up their own community meetings to talk about healthcare, and then report back through the site," [Bloomberg News](#) (12/30, Marcus) notes. "At the end of the 90-minute session," Daschle said that Obama "will use the reports to help craft recommendations to Congress."

Expert contends Obama's administration seeks to ration healthcare. In an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/30), Sally Pipes, president and CEO of the Pacific Research Institute, writes that with "his team of Tom Daschle as secretary of Health and Human Services and Melody Barnes as director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, we can predict both the strategy and substance of" President-elect Barack Obama's healthcare reform. Under Daschle's leadership, "Americans can expect a quick, hard push to build more federal bureaucracy, impose price controls, [and] restrict medicines and technology." She notes that "in his book, Mr. Daschle proposes a National Health Board to regulate the way healthcare is provided," and "given the opportunity," he "would likely charge the board with determining which...drugs are cost effective and therefore permissible." Daschle also believes "America needs to ration new technology and drugs." Pipes argues, however, that "Americans will not put up with such limits." She concludes, "Americans could easily find...a whole new healthcare regime they hadn't quite bargained for."

Editorial: Obama is "making all the right moves" in reforming healthcare. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (12/29) editorialized that "people without insurance are hoping President-elect Barack Obama delivers on his campaign pledge to push ahead with reforms designed to achieve 'affordable, accessible healthcare for every single American.'" And, "so far, Obama is making all the right moves." Not only does he appear "to be sticking to his first-year timetable -- economic crisis or not," but his "choice of former South Dakota Sen. Tom Daschle to lead the charge for reform as secretary of Health and Human Services is a further indication the new administration plans to move boldly." And, "by sampling public input on health reform in town hall and living room discussions, the incoming administration should be able to incorporate ideas from the grassroots." This strategy, the Inquirer noted, should also "blunt top-down criticism that helped sidetrack Clinton-era reform efforts." The Inquirer concluded that "a can-do spirit and sense of urgency from a president-elect who wants 'change' are the best things America's uninsured have going for them."

Please let your voice be heard...



New Meeting Venue for 2009

Hanover Seaside Club

601 S Lumina Avenue

Wrightsville Beach

We can enjoy the ocean while attending our lunch meeting!!

Recruit a NEW Member !!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION is January 22 following our general meeting.



Our speakers for January are Lisa Gibson and Michael Keough from Inclusive Health/NCHIRP. Information about the plans being offered and eligibility is on-line at www.inclusivehealth.org.



Sponsoring our January meeting is Companion Life, who specializes in worksite voluntary products.

Your Board of Directors wishes you SAFE and JOYOUS HOLIDAYS !

Happy New Year 2009!



