

Comment from: Jan Lee

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The goals of quality care at an affordable price are kind of like apple pie and motherhood – nobody is against them. But the devil is in the details, and there aren't a lot of details in the white paper. There is repeated mention of the need for stakeholder engagement, but so far, the trend seems to be to blow up the existing State Health Innovation Plan that was developed through extensive and intensive stakeholder engagement, and start all over, more than halfway into the SIM grant. Some of the things that the white paper calls for, such as workforce development and consumer engagement tools were in the approved SIM operational plan, but have been de-funded under the new administration. Others, such as Healthy Neighborhoods and Behavioral Health integration with Primary Care, have been summarily wrested away from DCHI and awarded to an outside contractor. Delaware is a small state, and the stakeholders that developed the SIM plan and have been working very hard for several years to operationalize it are the very stakeholders whose engagement will be needed to make the "Road to Value" successful, but they are being disenfranchised at every turn. The white paper calls for reconsideration of the roles of the Health Resources Board and of DHIN, without giving any details as to what that might mean or what different roles are being considered. And the final reference to "a new unified Health Care Authority" is downright scary – there is no description at all of what that is, what powers it will have, who will be a part of it and how they will be selected, etc. Delaware places high value on public-private partnerships, and the idea that the State may be moving toward a less participatory and more authoritarian model of problem solving is very chilling.

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