



THE CHANGE FOUNDATION

HEALTH CARE DESERVES
OUR FINEST THOUGHT

Tools for Change: Levers and Incentives for Integrating Patient Care in Ontario
SYMPOSIUM—APRIL 26
St. Andrew's Conference Centre, Toronto

SPEAKING NOTES: CATHY FOOKS, CEO
The Change Foundation

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE, welcome, and thank you for coming to today's symposium focused on incentives for integrating patient care in Ontario.

I'm Cathy Fooks, and I'm the President and CEO of The Change Foundation which framed and organized today's event in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

I'd like to thank the Ministry for turning to The Change Foundation to help refine its thinking on a set of complex policy questions related to funding incentives.

Today's symposium turns out to be a very timely affair. Financial reforms have been announced in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta and we will hear about some of them today.

With your help—we want to consider a central question: how do we get to a system of funding and incentives that best enables providers to achieve seamless, coordinated care for patients across all settings?

To answer that question, we need to ask others: does the way health-care providers are paid motivate change?

Can incentives be aligned to support integrated care and improved patient experience?

What combination of activity-based funding, patient-based funding, pay-for-performance, or blended models do we need?

What's worked well where, and why?

We have commissioned two background primers to assist with these questions. Copies are available here and are also on our web site.

One reviews the US experience with Federally Qualified Health Centres.

FQHCS, as they are known, illustrate the ingenuity of providers to promote and achieve integration and continuity of care in the face of funding policies that appear to have been devised without adequate consideration of the implications for patients.

The author Joni Steinman is with us today if you are interested in understanding more about the model.

The second primer focuses on the effects of financial incentives to incent behaviour in UK, Primary Care Trusts—in this case, incenting clinical performance on a set of primary care quality indicators.

It also examines the unintended consequences when financial incentives are implemented in isolation of other funding flows.

Finally, I would also encourage you to read the framework paper on models of funding and reimbursement in health care produced by Raisa Deber and her colleagues. It was most helpful in informing our thinking around today's event. We weren't able to provide it here today due to copywrite restrictions but it is available on the IPAC website.

And now to our keynote speaker.

Howard Dean is a man who has worn many hats: a physician with a mission, a politician with a vision, a leader and a legislator, an insider and an innovator, and an author and activist. And in all those capacities, he has been an incessant chaser of change, whether it's to make democracy in America stronger or its population healthier.

To cherry pick from his many credentials: he was Governor of Vermont for six terms, serving from 1991 to 2003; founder of Democracy For America and Chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2005 to 2009.

Dr. Dean is also a fan of Canada's single payer public insurance program, and has consistently pleaded for the public option to be included in the current, hotly debated, American health reform package.

And while we pride ourselves on our universal coverage, we have our own challenges with cost, efficiency, quality, patient satisfaction and real-time information. Indeed we are at the bottom of the pack along with the United States on many of the measures in the Commonwealth Fund's annual seven country health system survey.

So we look forward to hearing Dr. Dean's reflections on the significance of the current American reforms, his perceptions of the relative strengths of our different systems—and funding models—and how we can benefit from each others' experience.

Governor Dean has agreed to take as many questions as time allows after his remarks.

Governor Dean, thank you for joining us today. To paraphrase your President: your time is now!

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