

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2008

For more information, contact:
Debra Pate, (501) 526-2249
dapate@uams.edu

GOVERNOR'S ROUNDTABLE ON HEALTH CARE RECEIVES COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF ARKANSAS'S HEALTH CARE LANDSCAPE

Thirty-one individuals with varied backgrounds and experiences gain a common platform

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (February 7, 2008) – The Governor's Roundtable on Health Care held the second of its bimonthly meetings in Little Rock today. The focus of the meeting was an unbiased overview of the complexities of our health care system, delivered by Dr. Joe Thompson, director of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) and Surgeon General for the state of Arkansas.

"Each of the Roundtable members brings an important perspective, but their diverse backgrounds include various degrees of knowledge of the different aspects of our health care system," Thompson said. "The Roundtable's mission is to identify achievable strategies for improving health through better access to health care. They have the best chance of succeeding if all 31 members have a common understanding of the issues."

The overview included background on how government subsidized health care began, a demographic picture of Arkansas's health insurance landscape, a discussion of the different health insurance markets and how each is financed, federal and state insurance law, and a look at health care reform attempts in other states.

Following the overview, an automated response system was used to explore the group's level of consensus on a number of issues, including whether government, individuals, or employers have responsibility for providing coverage and controlling cost.

Approximately 60 stakeholders attended the meeting and were provided with an opportunity to describe to the Roundtable their thoughts regarding current health system needs or ideas for improvement.

(MORE)

ACHI is a nonpartisan, independent, health policy center that serves as a catalyst to improve the health of Arkansans.



1401 West Capitol Avenue
Suite 300, Victory Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
www.achi.net

February 7, 2007
Governor's Roundtable on Health Care
Page two of two

The next Governor's Roundtable on Health Care meeting will be held on April 3. Future meetings will include invited testimony from specific health care system components including hospitals, consumers, physicians, insurance carriers, safety net providers, allied health professionals and others. As each component is reviewed, relevant issues and possible solutions will be identified, including proposals for legislative consideration.

ACHI is responsible for staffing the Governor's Roundtable on Health Care. It is a non-partisan, independent health policy center dedicated to improving the health of Arkansans. ACHI is jointly sponsored by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the Arkansas Department of Human Services, and Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

###

ACHI is a nonpartisan, independent, health policy center that serves as a catalyst to improve the health of Arkansans.



1401 West Capitol Avenue
Suite 300, Victory Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
www.achi.net