

# **Small Business Health Coordinating Council**

**May 22nd 2007, 8:30 am**

## **Meeting minutes**

### **Attendees:**

**Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts**

**Laura Adams**

**Phil Papoojian**

**Mark Deion**

**Don Nokes**

**John Cronin**

**Linda Lulli**

**Sidney Goldman**

**Ed Greene**

**Dennis Toprac**

**Mark Hayward**

**Janet Raymond**

**Susan Pagnezzi**

**Jennifer Wood**

**Eli Zupnick**

### **Introduction**

**Lt. Governor Roberts called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.**

**She began by saying that at the first meeting of the Small Business Health Coordinating Council the strength of the approach was clear: bringing to the table many of the different groups working on the issue of health care for small businesses will have a positive effect in the coordinating of efforts and building of a coalition on some of the key issues of importance to all business groups. At the first meeting of the Coordinating Council each of these groups had an opportunity to talk about the specific issues they were working on, as well as the approaches they were taking in dealing with the issue.**

**Lt. Governor Roberts continued, saying that although there were certainly some issues on which there was disagreement among the groups, there is broad agreement that inaction is not an option. She said that her goal for the group is to not let the disagreements about strategy and approach get in the way of the group moving forward on the big issues they could all get behind.**

### **Health information technology**

**Lt. Governor Roberts explained that one such issue is looking at ways to attack the cost drivers in the health care system that are pushing premiums higher every year. She said that we can shift around the costs within the system, but unless we slow down its incredible inflation we will keep finding ourselves in trouble.**

**She said that one way that we can go about doing this is through the**

**implementation of health information technology in our state. Lt. Governor Roberts continued, saying that HIT has tremendous potential to not only reduce medical error and increase speed and efficiency, but also put in place the tools we desperately need to track what works and what doesn't in the health care system.**

**Lt. Governor Roberts then introduced Laura Adams, CEO of Rhode Island Quality Institute, to talk more about health information technology in Rhode Island.**

**Laura Adams made a presentation entitled "Toward a Higher Quality, More Affordable Health Care System: The Role of Health Information Technology." The PowerPoint presentation is attached.**