



Outline for Book Discussion on Health Care Financing Reform

Suggested Outline for a Book Event:

1. Introductions and Ice breakers
2. Goals of the event
 - a. Get to know each other and build relationships
 - b. Update on current legislation
 - c. Actions we will take together
3. Why did you come today? Share your health care stories.
4. Share and discuss “Principles for Health Care” from *Healing Health Care* by John Marty (available for free download at: www.mnhealthplan.org) or have copies available
 - a. Ensure that all people are covered
 - b. Cover all types of care, including dental, vision, hearing, mental health, chemical dependency treatment, prescription drugs, medical equipment and supplies, long term care and home care
 - c. Allow patients to choose their providers
 - d. Reduce costs by cutting administrative bureaucracy, not by restricting or denying care
 - e. Set premiums based on ability to pay
 - f. Focus on preventative care and early intervention to improve health
 - g. Ensure there are enough healthcare providers to guarantee access to timely care
 - h. Continue Minnesota’s leadership in medical education, research and technology
 - i. Provide adequate and timely payments to providers
 - j. Use a simple funding and payment system
 - k. Discussion questions:
 - i. How would a healthcare system based on these principles change the experience for you and your loved ones?
 - ii. How would a system based on these principles change your work as a nurse?
 - iii. Is there anything missing from this list that would make the healthcare system more fair and equitable?
5. Update on current state and federal legislation.
6. Discuss ways to take action:
 - a. Postcards- hand written, not scripted.
 - b. Phone calls- register your constituent opinions on specific legislation.
 - c. Lobby day- direct conversations with your legislator or staff person. Make appt.
 - d. Letters to the Editor, opinion pieces
 - e. Donate: to organizations working on Health Care for All