



Center for Health Transformation E-Newsletters

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MAKING 2004 THE YEAR TRANSFORMING HEALTH BECAME A REALITY

Over the past several months, we have seen a movement toward healthcare transformation. The passage of the Medicare Bill in December 2003 was a bold first step, but there is much room for future enhancements. In talking with Senator Frist's staff, Secretary Thompson, and staff from the White House, we have developed eight key areas of focus that will make 2004 the year transforming health became a reality.

CHT
Founder
Newt
Gingrich

- 1. Medicare implementation** - The Center will be working to help facilitate the public-private collaboration necessary to see the bill successfully implemented this year. A special focus will be on the roll out of the prescription drug card, chronic disease management and screening, quality indicators, and the use of technology in transforming the system.
- 2. Health Savings Account (HSA) purchasing and information support** - Working with the public and private sector, the Center seeks to facilitate the rapid adoption of HSAs in both Medicare and the private market. This includes developing the necessary information systems individuals need to wisely spend their funds. HSAs are the most significant tool we have to transform the current system into an intelligent, 21st century system of health and healthcare where individuals have the power and responsibility to control their own health.
- 3. Medicaid** - A transformational approach to Medicaid must be taken that could increase the quality of care and decrease the cost, but it requires a fundamental shift in thinking. While working to immediately improve the current system including encourage the adoption of innovative waiver and demonstration programs, we will work to design a 21st Century Responsible Citizen Medicaid Act.
- 4. The Government as a Purchaser**—The State and Federal Governments could play a much more significant role in transforming health and healthcare if they would more aggressively adopt solutions and technologies that are producing more choices, of better quality, at lower cost. We will continue to be a resource to these decision makers as they

seek to learn more about transforming solutions that save lives and save money.

5. Integrating National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ), Tricare, Veteran's Administration (VA), Health & Human Services (HHS), Office of Personnel Management (OPM) into an intelligent health system--

Working together, these agencies can achieve an intelligent 21st Century health and healthcare system that will improve health outcomes, improve the quality of life, lead to longer lives at lower cost and save individuals, companies and governments billions of dollars. In addition, an 21st Century health and healthcare system will be the greatest single 21st century source of high paying jobs and foreign exchange earnings as people across the world discover they want the quality of life, the level of health, and the effectiveness of health care that only our market mediated system could deliver.

6. Bio-threat and health prevention—The threat of a natural or engineered biological is very real. The Center is working to unite the public and private entities to ensure our health and healthcare system is prepared and protected.

7. Congressional Budget Office (CBO)-Office of Management & Budget (OMB) scoring— Scoring (the price tag CBO or OMB give to a piece of legislation) is the most understated and overlooked issue affecting healthcare transformation. The formulas currently being used are antiquated; the result is CBO and OMB score everything as a net loss when in the private sector technologies and solutions are achieving significant cost savings. Therefore new formulas need to be created in order to more accurately estimate the price tag of solutions so they can be fairly considered and debated by the Congress and the President.

8. Bring everyone into the system—The Center is seeking to expand health insurance coverage by advocating for market mediated solutions such as refundable tax credits for insurance, pooling small businesses through Association Health Plans and advocating for the adoption of HSAs. We have a specific opportunity and obligation to outreach to the needs of special populations to successfully integrate them into the 21st Century intelligent health system.

These items will be discussed further on our member teleconference on February 19th. Please see [details below](#).

The Center for Health Transformation would like to welcome our newest members of the Center: [National Association of Chain Drug Stores](#), [Paradigm Health](#), [Gold Standard Multimedia](#), and [Health Hero Network](#)

We would also like to recognize [Healthcare Dimensions](#) for upgrading its membership.

Please visit the [list of members](#) often to keep abreast of who is joining the Center.

Member Meeting

The Center for Health Transformation's inaugural member meeting was a great success. Though the weather on January 27th was deteriorating throughout the afternoon due to the ice storms that ravaged Washington, DC, turnout at the meeting was undeniably solid.

Nancy Desmond, President & CEO of the Center kicked off the event by welcoming everyone and emphasizing that as a member of the Center, you are actually a partner, in what we believe will be an amazing adventure that will literally change America and healthcare as we know it. Ms. Desmond distributed special inaugural edition CDs to the members. Anne Woodbury, the Center's Chief Health Advocate, followed by summarizing the Center's accomplishments and introducing the CHT staff.

Guest speakers, Doug Badger (Senior Health Advisor to President George W. Bush) and Dean Rosen, (Director of Health Policy for Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist) then talked about and responded to member questions regarding the recently passed Medicare Bill, President Bush's intentions and agenda, and the likelihood of further health care reform.

The second half of the meeting centered on CHT Founder, Newt Gingrich, discussing the State of Health Transformation. Newt focused on outlining the scale of change we will be living through and the need for a transformation of the health and healthcare system into a 21st Century Intelligent System where individuals have personal control and responsibility, and modern technology is being used that results in higher quality and lower cost. Newt fielded questions from the members, then everyone adjourned for networking and cocktails.

Many thanks to all of our members who attended. We look forward to seeing you at our next quarterly meeting scheduled on April 28th in Washington, DC.

January 26, 2004 – CHT's Anne Woodbury, Interviewed on "To the Point"

Speaking opposite Congressman Jim McDermott, advocate of a government run, single payer health system, the Center for Health Transformation's Chief Health Advocate, Anne Woodbury, described the need for expanding health insurance for all Americans through tax credits, health savings accounts, and other market mediated solutions that empower individuals. She also advocated for more transparency of quality information and the need to make our health system more automated with e-prescriptions, electronic health records, and bar coding of drugs. President of the American Association of Health Plans, Karen Ignagni was also interviewed. [Listen to the interview.](#)

January 2004 – "Medicare gets much-needed shot in the arm" - Commentary by Newt Gingrich in *Healthcare Financial Management*

Newt Gingrich discusses the newly passed Medicare bill highlighting the long-awaited drug benefit, Medicare-approved private plans, health savings accounts, the engaged healthcare consumer, and how the bill is a bold first step with much room for future enhancements. [Read more.](#)

January 2004 – "Understanding healthcare's moral dimension " - Commentary by Newt Gingrich in *Healthcare IT News*

This commentary on transforming the US healthcare system is the second of an exclusive two-part essay adapted from a talk former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich gave at 2003 The Emerging Technologies & Healthcare Innovations Congress. Gingrich will be a keynote speaker at the 2004 HIMSS Annual Conference & Exhibition. [Read more.](#)

Visit the [CHT in the News](#) section on the Center for Health Transformation's web site to read more!

Exclusive Monthly Member Teleconference - February 19th

The next monthly member teleconference will be held on Thursday, February 19th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern. Access to this call is restricted to Charter, Premier, and Associate members. If you would like more information about how to become a Charter, Premier, or Associate member of the Center, please contact us at **(202) 414-1800** or info@healthtransformation.net.

February 23rd– Orlando, Florida. Newt Gingrich keynotes Healthcare Information Management Systems Solutions (HIMSS).

March 11th – Washington, DC. Newt Gingrich to speak at the National Conference of State Legislatures Leader to Leader meeting.

March 17th - Washington, DC. Newt Gingrich to speak at the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions.

March 20th– Phoenix, Arizona. Newt Gingrich to speak at the IDX Healthcare Executive Summit.

April 20th - Miami, Florida. Newt Gingrich to keynote at IMS Health.

April 27th- Washington, DC. State Team Transformation Workshop.

April 28th - Washington, DC. Center for Health Transformation Quarterly Member Meeting.

For more information on these events or to view other CHT events, please visit <http://www.healthtransformation.net/events>.



If you would like to become a member of the Center or are interested in financially sponsoring a specific project, please contact us at 202.414.1800 or info@healthtransformation.net. Please also visit our website at <http://www.healthtransformation.net/>.

The Center for Health Transformation, founded by Speaker Newt Gingrich is dedicated to saving lives and saving money through driving transformational solutions and policies throughout the system. These e-mails from Newt are updates about the Center for Health Transformation, providing an insider's view of key events and opportunities for transformation. Some of you have already signed up for membership in the Center. Others are being sent this email as an invitation to membership.

The Center for Health Transformation does not provide lobbying services nor directly or indirectly participate in lobbying activities of any kind. The Center for Health Transformation further does not render legal advice, perform accounting services, nor act as an investment advisor or broker-dealer within the meaning of applicable state and federal securities laws.