

AstraZeneca Sponsors Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce Employer Based Healthcare Policy Summit

November 13, 2007 – On November 9, 2007, AstraZeneca sponsored a Policy Summit with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce on The Future of Employer Based Healthcare Coverage. More than 50 attendees, including representatives from the public and private sectors, participated in a robust discussion about the role of employer-based healthcare coverage and the proposals set forth in Governor Ed Rendell’s Rx for Pennsylvania. This Summit is part of a broader AstraZeneca initiative that is focused on issue of the uninsured in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York.



Pictured (L to R): Drake Nakaishi, (AstraZeneca State Government Affairs), Jennifer Tolbert (Kaiser Family Foundation), Jeanine Boyle (AstraZeneca Public Policy), Colleen Kanara (AstraZeneca Public Policy), Honorable Donna Cooper (Secretary of Policy & Planning), Mark Schweiker (Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce), Dr. Don Rucker (Siemens), Michael Pearson (Union Packaging) and William Strahan (Comcast).

Dr. Don Rucker, the Chief Medical Officer of Siemens Medical Solutions and moderator of the Summit, commended AstraZeneca for this timely discussion. The CEO of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Ralph Muller, provided participants with some interesting insight into the role hospital systems play in covering our nation’s uninsured.

This was followed by the unique perspectives of large and small employers about the importance of healthcare coverage to growing businesses. As a small business owner, Michael Pearson, President and owner of Union Packaging, views healthcare coverage as an essential element in securing and retaining a quality workforce. William J.T. Strahan, V.P., Compensation and Benefits, Comcast, spoke about the challenges of providing coverage to a large employee base and the growing significance of various health and wellness programs that Comcast offers employees as incentives to stay and become healthier.

The Honorable Donna Cooper, Secretary of Policy and Planning, Office of Governor Rendell, shifted the conversation to Pennsylvania’s uninsured workforce. With more than 767,000 uninsured Pennsylvanians, the Governor’s Office is looking to require employers to offer healthcare coverage to all their employees. To comment on what other states and Governors have proposed, a Principal Policy Analyst from the Kaiser Family Foundation, Jennifer Tolbert, closed out the session with some insight and lessons from other states.

Also in attendance were former Pennsylvania Governor and President & CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Mark Schweiker, Jeanine Boyle, Senior Director of State Policy and Drake Nakaishi, Director of State Government Affairs both of AstraZeneca.