



Waunakee Rotary Club

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Lisa Ellinger of the Wisconsin Health Project described Assembly Bill 1140, the Wisconsin Health Care Plan, at the Jan. 25 meeting of the Waunakee Rotary Club.

The Wisconsin Health Project is a nonprofit organization that started in the fall of 2004 to work on health care reform. Lisa previously worked in the Legislature for Gov. Doyle, where she saw frustration over failed attempts to find health care reform.

She and the director of the project, David Riemer, worked with State Representatives Curt Gielow and Jon Richards on a bi-partisan compromise and came up with the plan.

Lisa is talking to groups like the Waunakee Rotary throughout the state to hear their reactions to the plan.

The plan is not a government takeover of health care, she said. It keeps the market base in place. It would cover everyone in the state under the age of 65.

All eligible Wisconsin residents would receive a Premium Credit to purchase health insurance from competing, qualifying health insurance plans. Adults ages 18-64 would also receive a Health Savings Account funded at \$500 per year.

The basic package would cover medical and prescription drugs. It would also fully cover preventative medical costs, such as vaccinations for children. Children would have a lower deductible. The deductible for adults would be \$1,200 with a \$12,000 out-of-pocket maximum.

The plan is taken from a model used for state employees wherein the program invites insurers to submit bids. Insurers rated at the highest quality and with the most competitive rates would be placed in the first tier, with others put into a second and then a third tier.

There would be no monthly pre-

miums for those choosing insurers in the first tier, with some premiums in the second and third tiers.

The \$13 billion cost of the program has been politically contentious. There's been no agreement on how to fund it, Lisa said.

"There's limited ways that you can raise \$13 billion, I've learned," she said.

One idea not included in the Assembly Bill is to deduct 2 percent of every employee's social security wages, which is similar to what employees currently pay for health insurance. Employers would pay an assessment based on the payroll, anywhere from 3 percent for smaller businesses up to 12 percent for businesses with payrolls greater than \$500,000. The average Wisconsin employer pays 15 percent of their payroll for insurance.

The Wisconsin Health Project members hoped that Gov. Doyle would include the plan in the biennial budget. While he backs the idea of comprehensive health care, Doyle would prefer to implement it incrementally, first providing care to children, Lisa said.

Bipartisan legislation is expected to be introduced, but it is more symbolic, she said.

Other items:

- Dave Kennedy reported that there are plenty of tickets available for the Super Bowl event at Rex's Innkeeper. You can get some from Dave to sell or buy some for yourself.

- Kim Lengfeld is heading up the Super Raffle event and would like some help. A volunteer is needed to help at the March 21 event, as well. The Super Raffle committee is also seeking suggestions for projects to donate the proceeds to. Such projects in the past have included the lights at Warrior Stadium and the Rotary in Lights – projects that benefit the com-

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Calendar of Events:

Feb. 4, Super Bowl event
March 21, Super Raffle
April 12-28, Russian visitors
May 4-6, District Conference
June 17-20, RI, Salt Lake

munity.

Guests: Traci Mann, guest of Peggy Acker Farber; Brent Neevel, guest of Roberta Baumann.

Birthdays: None.

Anniversaries: Feb. 1, Jim and Terri Brussell.

Prayers: Feb. 1, Kim Wilde; Feb. 8, Pat Durden.

Programs: Feb. 1, Club Assembly; Feb. 8, classification speeches; Feb. 15, Bill Erickson and Phil Willems on their trip to Haiti; Feb. 22, Little People; March 1, Club Assembly; March 8, Lynne Spielman on her trip to Nigeria.

Greeters: Feb. 1, Wendy Grunewald-Fahlgren and Rich Harris; Feb. 8, Bob Hoskins and Jerry Johnson; Feb. 15, Jim Jukes and Kevin Kearney.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.