

PCMH Independent Study Work Group Meeting
February 4, 2016

Attendees

Dr. Rob Stenger, Partnership Health Center
Dr. Pat Morrow, Blue Cross Blue Shield
Kristen Pete, Glacier Medical Associates
Paula Block, Montana Primary Care Association
Tara Callaghan, Providence Health System
Erwin Austria, Blue Cross Blue Shield

CSI Staff

Catherine Wright
Amanda Roccabruna Eby

The Independent Study Work Group met briefly, by phone, to discuss the status of hiring a consultant and securing funding. Earlier this week, Dr. Stenger sent a questionnaire to the two potential authors, Dr. Bryce Ward of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana and Dr. Chris Whaley of the University of California Berkeley. He has not received responses to the questionnaire yet, but they both responded to the email that they would reply soon. Without more information the Work Group did not have much else to discuss. Dr. Whaley had relayed that while he previously thought he had funding for this project, he does not.

Next, attendees asked CSI staff for a definitive answer on whether or not the agency had the availability in their budget to fund the study. The staff could not answer at the time but said they would consult with the Deputy Commissioner and have more information at the February council meeting.

The group reviewed [research compiled by Dr. Morrow](#) on examples of how to estimate improvements in health and reductions in cost based on the PCMH program's quality measures. The research is helpful in reiterating that a much longer time period than what the Montana program has been in existence is required to show the effects of intervention and that interventions in blood pressure and diabetes did result in benefits over several years.

The group will meet again Thursday, March 3rd at 12:00 and should be ready to select the consultant by that time.