

# The Hertel Report State-of-the-State Meetings a Great Success

Jim Hammond, The Hertel Report

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On Tuesday June 9th in Tucson and Friday June 12th in Phoenix, The Hertel Report (THR), in cooperation with the AZ chapter of HFMA, presented the twice-annual State of the State (SOS) meetings. The breakfast meetings were moderated by Jim Hammond, consultant and publisher of THR, and Steve Rees, benefits consultant. The audience consisted of leaders in the healthcare field in Arizona. More than 35 attended the Tucson meeting at the Arizona Inn and the Phoenix session was standing room only with over 150 people joining together at the Pointe Squaw Peak Resort. Networking over breakfast was a big hit in both locations with many in attendance meeting new colleagues and reminiscing with old friends.

Jim and Steve began the meeting by going over the top news stories both nationally and locally, which included the impact of the King vs. Burwell decision and the newly passed Medicare Access and CHIP Restoration Act. Jim updated the audience on the recent Medicare Advantage enrollment changes and AHCCCS issues.

Next up was a special guest speaker, Jennifer Sommers, director of network management and contracting for Mercy Care Plan/Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC). Jenn gave a report on the progress made so far by MMIC, the new Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA). MMIC was awarded the Maricopa County RBHA contract in October of 2013 and began serving the unique population in April of 2014.

Steve and Jim then updated the group on the progress of the ACA in reducing the uninsured, both nationally and in Arizona. The national figure is around 11 million that have signed up for insurance through the federal and state exchanges. In Arizona, over 205,000 individuals have signed up.

The second half of the meeting was very well received as Jim moderated a panel discussion between leaders of six of Arizona's 12 Medicare ACO's. Representatives from Arizona Connected Care, Arizona Care Network, Banner Health Network, Commonwealth Primary Care ACO, North Central Arizona Accountable Care and Scottsdale Health Partners all participated in very open, thoughtful and revealing discussions about their ownership, structure, size, network affiliations, struggles and successes. The work these organizations are doing is benefitting all of us as taxpayers, by reducing costs for CMS and improving quality of care and patient satisfaction.

The Summer SOS meetings were considered a great success. Feedback was very positive and many ideas were proposed for future topics. THR will incorporate audience feedback into future events. The next meetings will be held in January 2016 and AZHFMA members are encouraged to attend and receive a member discount on their registration fees. Watch the Cactus Clarion for announcements of the dates and locations of future SOS meetings.

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