

Healthcare Reform Update

The introduction of the "Baucus Bill" in the Senate has further clouded, rather than clarifying the status of healthcare reform in Washington. For starters, what Baucus introduced was not a bill, but rather, a 250-page conceptual outline; and more than 500 amendments to his approach have been offered to date. The bill itself in its final form will likely total about 2,000 pages. And since the devil is always in the details, it will be necessary to examine the bill itself to calculate both costs and impacts.

The approach that Baucus has proposed would increase healthcare spending by roughly \$1.7 trillion over the next 10 years and partially offset these additional costs with \$838 billion in new taxes and fees. Cost projections are premised on more than \$600 billion in Medicare cost reductions over the next 10 years—something that many in Washington question will be possible. And the Baucus bill would require states to absorb more than \$37 billion in additional Medicaid costs an approach that could bankrupt many fragile states that already are awash in red ink.

Every passing day brings us closer to the 2010 election and polling related to reform proposals offered thus far show eroding public support for the sweeping plans under consideration. The most recent Rasmussen Poll shows the public opposed to the pending legislation by a margin of 56 to 41 percent—hardly statistics that will give comfort to democrats running for re-election next fall.

The Chamber supports responsible reform; i.e. reform that addresses the real underlying causes of the healthcare cost spiral. We believe reform should not just create the expectation that everyone deserves access to healthcare, but that also supports the notion that each individual citizen bears a responsibility to maintain his or her own well-being. And that responsible reform will address not just the healthcare payment mechanism (insurance), but the delivery of care in the system too. We need to find a mechanism to reduce costs by rewarding providers who provide the best results at the lowest cost and penalizing providers who don't.

The Chamber urges members to continue to express their concerns to Representative Kagen and Senators Kohl & Feingold. They need to know that businesses in northeast Wisconsin support responsible reform, but oppose approaches that will drive costs higher and irreparably damage the business climate.

[H1N1 Healthcare Resources & Tips](#)

As we continue to see spread of the H1N1 in our communities, three area health care organizations (Affinity Health System, Aurora Health Care and ThedaCare) have created a list of recommendations and further resources to assist area businesses planning for and dealing with a potential H1N1 pandemic within your workforces. Please click on the link or go to the Chamber website at www.foxcitieschamber.com

[Fox Cities Chamber Business magazine](#)

The **November/December** editorial coverage will be: **HEALTH CARE:** Chamber collaborative & health plans update. Business strategies to achieve employee buy-in to consumer driven plans. Innovation in delivery of health care. Feature: Manufacturer of the Year and Athena Award winners. **Ad commitment deadline is Friday 10/9/09. Artwork deadline Friday 10/23/09.**

Athena Scholarship

Past recipients of the Athena Award give back to their community by encouraging other working women who are continuing their education while working and supporting themselves and their families. The Fox Cities Athena Award Scholarship was created to support these working women.

The students must working women who plan to attend school during the current academic year, and be enrolled for a minimum of six credits. Course work must be targeted toward a degree, not for personal enrichment. Selection criteria includes academic record, character and desire for further education. Applications for the scholarships are being accepted through October 9.

To receive a scholarship form or for more information contact Pam Hull, vice president of Membership and Operations at the Chamber by calling 920-734-7101, or email phull@foxcitieschamber.com.

Happy Anniversary

The Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce honors its members for their achievements, including companies celebrating significant anniversaries. If your company is a Chamber member firm celebrating 50, 75, 100, and 125-years in business, your firm will be recognized at the annual meeting on Tuesday, October 28. Please contact the Chamber office by calling (920) 734-7101 or email to information@foxcitieschamber.com Type Company Anniversary in the subject line.

[Morning Business Advice for October](#)

When: Thursday, October 8, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Where: FVTC DJ Bordini, 5 Systems Drive, Appleton

Daryl Ohland of WIPFLI LLP will speak about "Sales Tax - Are Your Ready for an Audit?" Ohland will cover how the Department of Revenue has increased the auditing of business for sales tax purposes. Learn how to identify the issues that can affect your business and industry. The event is sponsored by Epiphany Law Firm, LLC. Registration is at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$7.00 for Chamber members in advance or \$10.00 at the door and \$15.00 for non-members. Advance registration is accepted until noon the day prior to the event.

[Business Connection for October](#)

When: Wednesday, October 14, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: St. Elizabeth Hospital, 1506 S. Oneida Street, Appleton

A monthly, informal, after-hours event sponsored by a Chamber member. Bring your business cards and mingle! Cost for Chamber members is \$2.00 if registered and paid in advance or \$4.00 at the door. Non-member cost to attend is \$20.00.

Breakfast Networking Connections

When: October 22, 2009 (check our website for dates for the rest of year)

Where: Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, 125 N. Superior St., Appleton

Members of the Fox Cities Chamber can now jump start their day with a hot cup of coffee and a handshake at the Breakfast Networking Connections. At the other end of the handshake might just be their next new customer! Meetings are held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. A maximum of 30 people can attend. Each participant is given two minutes to talk about themselves and their job and can distribute materials. The cost to attend is \$2.00 per person which include a continental breakfast.

Pulse CEO Breakfast ~ Back by popular demand!

When: Thursday, October 22, 2009, 7:00 to 8:45 a.m.

Where: Time Warner Cable, 3520 Destination Drive Appleton, WI 54914

Now in its third year, the Pulse CEO Breakfast will be a panel discussion that includes:

Rita Cox, President of Presto Products

Ginger Jones, CFO of Plexus

Travis Andersen, President of St. Elizabeth Hospital

Mike Fox, Vice President and General Manager of Time Warner Cable Northeast Wisconsin.

Participants will have the opportunity to listen and learn from four successful business leaders who will share their viewpoints on developing leadership skills and driving successful businesses. Pulse encourages the submission of questions for the panel to consider prior to the event. To submit a question or topic, send an email to pulse@foxcitieschamber.com Please type CEO Breakfast in the subject line.

Cost is \$5.00 for Pulse members and \$10.00 for non-members. To register go to:

<http://www.foxcitiesyoungprofessionals.com/foxcitiespulse/oct+22+ceo+breakfast/default.asp>

Pulse will also be holding a Networking Night at Badger Sports Park on October 29th!

Annual Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 28, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Where: Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in downtown Appleton

Barry Asmus, Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker. Asmus is a senior economist with the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA). He writes, testifies and speaks on political and business issues facing America and is widely recognized for his views on making the U.S. a world class competitor through total quality management and market incentives. Asmus has twice been voted the Outstanding Professor of the Year as well as having received the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge Award for Private Enterprise Education.

The program also will include recognizing outgoing members of the Chamber's Board of Directors and introducing the new Board leadership. Companies celebrating significant anniversaries of 50, 75, 100, and 125-years will be recognized.

Presentation of the 2009 Manufacturer of the Year Awards will recognize successful manufacturing firms from the area, sponsored by Baker Tilly.

Presentation of the Athena Award, recognizing a distinguished local business woman, also will be presented. The Athena Award program is sponsored by Bergstrom Automotive.

Cost to attend is \$52.00 per person or \$520.00 for a table of 10. Invitations to the event will be mailed out to all Chamber members. For more information, contact the Chamber by calling (920) 734-7101 or by emailing information@foxcitieschamber.com

[Experience China](#)

Join the Northeast Wisconsin Chamber Coalition (includes the Chambers of Commerce from Fond du Lac, the Fox Cities, Green Bay Area and Oshkosh) and fellow business leaders for an exciting adventure to China in spring 2010! The group will depart from JFK International Airport on April 8, 2010. Reservation deadline will be in early December 2009.

Experience today's China – learn about the Chinese business system, meet with Chinese business leaders and take in all the country's memorable sites and cultural experiences.

The trip includes tours of Tian An Men Square, the largest square in the world, and the Temple of Heaven, the Great Wall and Ming Tombs while in Beijing. In Shanghai visits will be made to the Linger Garden, Tiger Hill, Hanshan Temple and National Embroidery Institute to see silk embroidery, a local craft with thousands of years of history.

For more information contact the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce by calling (920) 734-7101 or emailing to information@foxcitieschamber.com Type China Trip in the subject line.

The following events are co-sponsored with the Fox Cities Chamber

[Controlling Healthcare Costs - an Employer Perspective](#)

When: Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

Where: Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, 125 N. Superior St., Appleton
Mary Felton of HR Business Partners, LLC will share innovative experiences in controlling healthcare costs while positively impacting employees health, productivity, culture and bottom line. The initiatives that Felton has implemented have shown 30-35% reduction in healthcare cost within the first year, while enhancing employee benefits and wellness culture. Cost to attend is \$20.00 for Chamber members and \$25.00 non-members.

Customer Service Workshop

When: Friday, November 6

[Morning Session – 8:30 a.m. to noon](#)

[Afternoon Session – 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.](#)

Where: Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, 125 N. Superior St., Appleton
Joe Constance of Constant Training will speak on customer service as an integral part of any business and how treating customers can affect your business. All participants will receive a copy of Constance's book Customer Service Eagles. Cost to attend is \$70.00 for Chamber members and \$80.00 for non-members.

Up2Date, a weekly e-newsletter from the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, features Chamber sponsored programs and events including Business Connections, Morning Business Advice, seminars and other relevant news for the coming week.
Up2Date is best viewed in HTML format.

To register for any of the following Fox Cities Chamber events or to inquire about Chamber membership, call (920) 734-7101, [go online](#) or [email](#). To read a full description of the information, click on the title of the event or [go online](#) to www.foxcitieschamber.com