



Foundations of Leadership in Healthcare

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Thank you, Brian.

And, good morning to you all.

It is truly impressive to see that more than 100 executives from top hospitals throughout Arizona are here today.

Despite the numerous challenges you face, you are committed to improving the healthcare environment for ALL Arizonans.

As is the case in other industries, healthcare has become customer-driven.

Your consumers -- your patients -- have become more empowered than ever before.

Patient-driven hospitals are becoming the rule rather than the exception, so it is not a surprise that the country's best hospitals are adopting patient-centered health care models.

They are discovering that everything else -- from customer satisfaction -- to financial stability -- falls into place after that.

Your presence here demonstrates to me that you have taken the responsibility to step forward as a leader, to determine your top priorities, and realign resources at the right levels to ensure success.

As Governor, I have had to do the same thing.

In FY08, revenues to the State were down 8% or \$768 million from the previous year. In FY09, revenues were down 20.8% or \$1.82 billion from the previous year. In FY10 so far, revenues are down even from our most conservative estimates.

Since I became Governor in January, I have already instituted the largest spending cuts of any Governor in Arizona history – over \$700 million in permanent cuts have already been implemented.

We have reduced the state work force by 1560 state employees – permanently, and yet we still have a \$1.5 billion deficit.

We have furloughed over 15,000 state employees – which is practically the same thing as a big pay cut, and yet we still have a \$1.5 billion deficit.

AHCCCS (Arizona's Medicaid program), is growing by tens of thousands each month.

Over 1.3 million Arizonans are now enrolled with AHCCCS, and the voters have locked in the additional growth and spending – the Legislature and the Governor TOGETHER cannot reduce eligibility even if we wanted to.

Meanwhile, we must stop pretending that spending cuts are the ONLY answer.

In keeping with your own Studer Group principles, I, too, had to COMMUNICATE – I had to strive to ACCOMMODATE STAKEHOLDERS – and I had to remain DILIGENT.

I continue to believe the 5-Point Plan I offered – Budget Reform -- Improvement to the Voter Protection Act -- Further spending cuts -- Tax reform to attract business and more jobs -- and, yes, some sort of – temporary -- Revenue enhancement – IN THE RIGHT DOSAGE, is the remedy for what ails us.

Of course, these strategies -- and the ones YOU apply every day -- do not occur in a vacuum.

Doctors, nurses, and other staff members all need some sort of guidance.

You are showing your commitment to this concept today and as the leaders of your organization.

So, I thank you for the invitation to spend some time with you this morning, and I wish you well as your Workshop continues -- helping make healthcare a better place for employees, physicians, and patients in Arizona. Thank you.