**Health Care Reform Forum Meeting Notes – January 12, 2022**

**Progressive Action for the Common Good**

**Present:** Diane, Kay, Frank, Deb, Julie

Advertising possibilities:

1. Kay shared Frank’s visual for possible Build Back Better pr from PACG.

2. Frank suggested this message might be better targeted at Iowa side.

3. Frank suggested that we OK concept with PACG Board before going forward.

4. Questions needing further research:

 A. MetroLink buses go to both sides?

 B. Interior cards ($280/4 weeks, plus $25 for production/installation. Possible rule of minimum of 20 cards

 C. Wrapping back of bus ($1270, and they do the art).

 D. Tail panels $250/period (4 weeks) Plus $105 production/installation. Can we specify routes?

5. The following was determined to be a reasonably order of events:

 A. Concept of message to board

 1. Deb will bring concept to PACG Board

 2. Deb will contact Lori M and Susan L to see if Environmental Forum might be willing to partner with us.

 3. Julie will send Lori’s phone number to Deb

 4. Deb contact Diane regarding additional research

 B. Decide on placement, cost and time frame

Other Issues:

1. News on virus and vaccines: Diane reported there were 1.35 million new cases in US on Monday - highest daily total for any country in the world. We discussed current RI stats

2. Insurance companies should cover home Covid tests starting January 15th.

3. Supreme Court ruling on vaccine mandates

4. Biden Administration to address Medicare middlemen

5. Coding Explanation: Deb shared all reimbursements are associated with a code. Every medical visit, treatment, etc. has a specific code. It is possible to “upcode” certain reimbursements. Big hospitals use only credentialed coders. Mistakes happen, but Deb does not believe this happens deliberately.

6. Hike in Medicare costs for 2022 linked to Biogen’s Alzheimer’s drug in part. Even though the company cut the cost by 50%, Medicare did not adjust their payment hike but will review in the spring. Medicare will only reimburse the drug cost for people who are in clinical trials. The drug has many serious side effects. It’s very hard to diagnose Alzheimer’s vs other forms of dementia. The drug seems to work on early stage Alzheimer’s.

7. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 16th - 2:30 PM