Name

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Governor Deal’s administration has set out to improve the overall well-being of the residents of Georgia. Economically, more than half a million jobs have been created since he took office in 2011 (Hall, 2014). He has also overseen several balanced budgets as well as saved funds by ensuring that Georgia’s bond rating remains AAA. At the same time, the emergency fund has been multiplied several times. The significant success achieved in various fields can be attributed to the enactment of policies that are feasible and are easy to implement in the state. In recent times, Deal has seen to it that the healthcare sector needs to be reformed to increase access to health services. The Affordable Healthcare Act was passed by the House of Representatives and signed into law by President Obama in 2010. The Act usually dubbed Obamacare came as a reform to the healthcare sector with several objectives in mind. The primary aim of the law was to extend the reach of quality health care to more Americans. It at the same time seeks to reduce healthcare spending. Incorporated in the complex piece of law includes protection, benefits, rights and rules for spending, taxes insurance companies, funding, job creation, education, tax breaks and more (Hall, 2014).

The healthcare sector is an important sector of any country. The maintenance of a healthy population full of vigor is a necessary ingredient for the progress of a nation not to mention health is a vital basic need. There are usually policies, and infrastructure laid out to ensure the provision of quality healthcare services. Key among the reforms delivered by the law includes enhancing transparency in the healthcare sector. The Act sets out to make Americans as informed as possible about issues about healthcare. Patients are protected by states since the states can bar providers who have been guilty of misconduct in other states from operating in them. States also have more power that allows them to improve liability insurance, test reforms that pertain to the safety of patients and encourage resolution. To protect Americans from perennial abusers of healthcare provision power, the Act imposed disclosure requirements to reveal those providers who have involved themselves in fraud, waste, and abuse. Care provision at a personal level is boosted by promoting high-quality research that makes data more available to doctors such that they can make the best decisions for a patient. The quality of healthcare in nursing homes is boosted by incentive programs and regulations (Gulliford, 2013).

States have to align their policies with the objectives of the Affordable Healthcare Act. Deal has to see to it that his government can take care of the needs of a geographically diverse and a growing population. At the moment, healthcare policies are formulated with the intention of providing long-term and sustainable solutions. This includes promoting a culture of wellness and thereby minimizing common ailments such as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes. These conditions are often avoidable by making healthy lifestyle choices. The cost of treating these diseases adversely affects productivity as well as the quality of life. Investment in programs that attempt to reduce the prevalence of lifestyle-related ailments is one that is treasured (Nyhan, 2013). Private-public partnerships are an essential way through which awareness is raised in a bid to reach as many people as possible (Yang, 2015).

The healthcare facilities in the state are undoubtedly of world-class quality. The institutions and infrastructure make advancements in medical research and clinical care possible. However, the resources get strained as the number of people in need of care increase. To keep up with the rate of rising demand, it is necessary that the state attracts and retains highly qualified providers. This is also a step towards the achievement of improving access by attempting to match the demand with the supply. The potential of providing affordable and quality care to all citizens needs to be tapped (Gulliford, 2013).

The state is also a hub of innovation and research. Nationally, Georgia is among the top states in biotechnology research and innovation. A massive amount of jobs has been created in this field which adds to the billions of dollars in economic impact. Private as well as public institutions have ventured in biotechnology research with the results of improving technology. Thousands of highly skilled workers flock to the state to get a hand in the research process (Gulliford, 2013). At the same time, improving technology tends to reduce the cost of performing various tasks by increasing efficiency. This is crucial in making sure that the resources of healthcare institutions are not very constrained (Yang, 2015).

Deal has launched a plan to increase healthcare access in rural areas. He has acknowledged the fact that rural hospitals have been struggling financially for many years. Hospitals can be so overwhelmed that they cease operating. This is usually catastrophic not only regarding healthcare provision but also economically. This is because hospitals are some of the largest employers in numerous localities. Thus, jobs are lost and lives impacted negatively overall. Deal's plan seeks to reduce the tendency of hospitals closing down. The idea is to make it that hospitals do not close down entirely even if they cease providing some services. Therefore the institutions may continue providing even if it is only basic services (Nyhan, 2013).

Deal is looking to modify the rules and regulations governing hospital licensing. This will permit rural hospitals to offer fewer services if they have been closed within the past year or are in danger of closure. The hospitals will act as stabilization centers in case of emergencies as a patient waits to be transported to a full-service hospital. The hospitals could also offer services such as endoscopy that do not require an operating room. He is also making an employee of the Department of Community Health to serve as a point person for rural hospitals. This is in an attempt to streamline communication and make sure it is both ways. He also proposes the establishment of a Rural Hospitals Stabilization Committee that will be faced with the task of identifying the issues faced by rural hospitals and at the same time offer solutions to these problems (Nyhan, 2013).

A pilot program is to be launched that aims at relieving pressure off emergency departments. The program involves increasing the utilization of existing and new infrastructure and technology in smaller critical access facilities. The hubs that have been proposed for initial implementation include Union General, Appling Health System, Crisp Regional and Emanuel Regional Medical Center. Deal and his team also recommended that the existing Certificate of Need Laws be maintained for the purpose of protecting rural hospital infrastructure. For the purpose of sustaining health care resources in rural areas, Deal seeks to expand the scope of practice for midlevel providers (Nyhan, 2013).

Healthcare organizations come in many forms. The ownership types particularly whether for profit or otherwise serve to tell of the primary source of funding for the organization. Investment can be from the public sector or private sector. Government involvement may be necessary for the running of some key institutions such as the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that may require a large pool of capital and appropriate government oversight. Investment in healthcare by the government may not be direct since educating professionals in the field of healthcare is also an investment (Sloan, 2000).

The four primary forms of ownership of healthcare organizations (HCO) include non-governmental, nonprofit HCOs, not-for-profit, business-oriented organizations, governmental healthcare organizations, governmental HCOs, and for-profit healthcare organizations. After a close examination of the diverse forms of ownership of healthcare organizations, there emerge several options from which they can choose from. The preferred form of ownership will depend on the goals, mission, vision, and organizational structure that is desired. Deal will be seeking to increase access to care. Public-private partnership is an effective way that will ensure cost-sharing as well as a balance between the goals of provision and profit making (Sloan, 2000).

Deal has recognized a problem that is prevalent not only in Georgia but countrywide. The Affordable Healthcare Act was formed with the primary aim of increasing access to healthcare of all citizens regardless of their level of income. In an attempt to provide quality care to low-income people or people in remote areas, challenges have to be overcome (Hall, 2014). The state should seek to expand its charity clinics. Currently, about 96 hospitals serve 183,000 low-income people who are uninsured. The clinics have the potential to help even more people. Expansion of these clinics, as well as other actions aimed at reaching down to low-income citizens, should involve several actions. This includes replacing lost federal funding for safety-net hospitals, expanding telemedicine, modernizing nurse practitioner regulations, providing state support to charity clinics, and reinstating sales tax exemptions for charity clinics (Yang, 2015). The steps taken by Deal may not be huge, but they are critical in ensuring a systematic problem-solving process that provides sustainable solutions.

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