

STUDY CIRCLE #4

What Do We Want?

How Can We Get There?

I. Welcome: Coming together and settling in with a brief reading or contemplative activity.

II. Overview: Here is an opportunity for you to re-imagine a health care system that reflects your values and yearnings. As you "design" your ideal health care system—by listing its elements—be true to those values by thinking beyond the limitations imposed by the status quo.

III. The Dot Game Exercise – PART ONE: Review the instruction page for the Dot Game Exercise. As a group list, but *don't* discuss, the key elements of your ideal health care system. The goal of this exercise is to elicit many, many ideas, in any order (even if they are contradictory), and jot them down. Here are some optional categories and questions to stimulate your thinking and assist you in compiling your group wish list. (*up to 30 minutes*)

A. Core Values

We all hold core values about what is good and right. When we don't see these values reflected in the institutions and systems in which we live we feel the conflict. Identify and list your core values and the qualities in a health care system that would reflect them (*i.e. fairness, compassion, honesty, etc.*).

B. Core Principles

Reformers do not all agree on how to reform our system as they address the following issues:

<i>Universality</i>	Should health care be extended to all residents?
<i>Basic Coverage</i>	What types and minimum kinds of care can eligible parties expect to receive?
<i>Portability</i>	How transferable is one's coverage when they move or change jobs?
<i>Accessibility</i>	How accessible are health services? What conditions must be met to receive care?
<i>Affordability</i>	Are our country's resources adequate to support health care for all? Is the cost of medical care within reach of the average American household?

C. Economics and Financing

<i>Resources</i>	Do we, as a country, have the resources to deliver basic care to everyone?
<i>Equity</i>	If not, how do we distribute care as fairly as possible?
<i>Financing</i>	How would we finance it? Who should pay for it? What should be the role of profit-making?
<i>Administration</i>	What should be the roles, if any, of government, employers and insurance companies? What would be the responsibilities of individuals?

D. Delivery of Services

<i>Choice</i>	Does your system include choice in professional services? If so, what kinds?
<i>Prevention</i>	Does your system include prevention?

E. Education and Training: How does your system prepare and support providers and patients? Does your system include medical personnel training and education? If so, how they are financed? Does your system include health education for all citizens? Does your system address the roles and responsibilities of individuals? If so, in what ways?

IV. The Dot Game Exercise – PART TWO:

- Review the instruction page for the Dot Game Exercise. This is your opportunity to prioritize the ideas on your lists. The "voting with dots" portion of the game should take approximately 10 minutes.
- Which elements or ideas received the most dot votes? What were the top FIVE priorities? Record this data on sheet provided.

V. Discussion: Reflection on your individual and group experiences.

What did you learn from having done this exercise? Did this exercise help you to clarify your values? Any surprises? What plans or proposals reviewed in Study Circle #3 most closely matches yours or your group's priorities? To what extent are our needs and desires grounded in moral principles?

VI. Next Week - Choose next week's facilitator, scribe and time-keeper.