

League of Women Voters of Oklahoma
Study of Health Care
Consensus questions

1. Of the seven suggestions for improving mental (behavioral) health¹ in Oklahoma from the 2002 LWVOK study which are still relevant and should be mentioned in the 2021 health care position? Place an X in front of those statements that are still relevant.
- a. _____ Assessing the basic mental health needs of a variety of populations
 - b. _____ Focusing on identification and prevention of mental illness
 - c. _____ Increasing mental health funding
 - d. _____ Monitoring the effectiveness of current mental health programs
 - e. _____ Improving access to mental health services
 - f. _____ Training personnel for delivery of mental health services
 - g. _____ Stopping the diversion of mentally ill children and adults into the corrections system

Comments:

2. Of the five measures suggested to prevent teenage pregnancy mentioned in the 1989 LWVOK study, which should be affirmed in the new LWVOK position on health care. Place an X in front of those statements that are still relevant.
- a. _____ Increasing opportunities to obtain good academic skills,
 - b. _____ Developing more training in work skills that teach good work habits and good attitudes toward work,
 - c. _____ Offering training in family life education and life planning with emphasis on the responsibilities of being sexually active, parenting and providing for the future,
 - d. _____ Providing access for all teens to health services, including contraceptives and counseling on the responsibilities of being sexually active, and
 - e. _____ Identifying resources for adolescents to help instill self-respect and an appreciation of the own capabilities and talents.

Comments:

¹ The LWVOK will use the term *behavioral health* in the 2021 Health Care position to correspond to the LWVUS term adopted for mental health and substance use disorder.

3. Of the eight measures that the LWVUS proposes to reduce the cost of health insurance, which should be included in the LWVOK position on health care? Check all that should be affirmed.
- a. Reducing administrative costs,
 - b. Regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
 - c. Establishing maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
 - d. Reforming malpractice,
 - e. Using managed care,
 - f. Reviewing treatment,
 - g. Requiring mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment, or
 - h. Instituting consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.

Comments:

4. Of the five measures contained in the LWVUS proposal to ensure equitable health care for all, which should be affirmed in the 2021 LWVOK health care position? Place an X in front of all that should be affirmed.
- a. Allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
 - b. Providing for the training of health care professionals in areas of greatest need,
 - c. Standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
 - d. Requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
 - e. Establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

Comments:

5. Which of the measures that the LWVUS proposes with regard to behavioral health should be affirmed in the 2021 LWVOK health care position? Place an X before all that should be affirmed.
- a. Providing access for all people to affordable behavioral health care services and medications
 - b. Developing health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care
 - c. Ensuring early and affordable behavioral health care diagnosis and treatment for children and youth
 - d. Providing family-focused and community-based health care for children and adolescents

- e. ____ Ensuring that people with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless, have access to safe and stable housing
- f. ____ Developing effective re-entry and follow-up planning for persons released from the behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system
- g. ____ Establishing special courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts, to provide needed treatment and to avoid inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system
- h. ____ Providing health education at all levels that integrates all aspects of social, emotional, and physical health and wellness
- i. ____ Increasing efforts to eliminate the stigmatization of behavioral health problems and care and to normalize such problems

Comments:

- 6. The study materials reveal that the U.S. health care system does not compare well to similar countries. How should this be handled in the new LWVOK position on health care?
 - a. ____ It should not be mentioned.
 - b. ____ It should be mentioned, but no statistics given.
 - c. ____ Our new position should mention our lack of competitiveness and recommend that the U.S. study other health care systems to see what they do better than we do.
 - d. ____ Other, describe

Comments:

- 7. Oklahoma does not compare well with other states. How should this be handled in the new LWVOK position on health care?
 - a. ____ It should not be mentioned
 - b. ____ It should be mentioned, but no statistics given
 - c. ____ Our new position should mention how poorly we rate and recommend that Oklahoma study other states' health care systems to see what they do better than we do.
 - d. ____ Other

Comments:

- 8. The study materials make it clear that there is a lack of consistency in access to health care and health care outcomes throughout the state of Oklahoma. How should this be handled in the new LWVOK position on health care?
 - a. ____ It should not be mentioned.
 - b. ____ It should be mentioned, but no statistics given.

- c. _____ Our new position should emphasize the inadequacy of Oklahoma's health delivery system and insist that this situation be addressed.
- d. _____ Other

Comments:

- 9. To decrease maternal and infant mortality for the most at-risk families, the LWVOK supports:
 - a. _____ expanding Medicaid to more Oklahomans
 - b. _____ providing incentives to increase diversity among the medical professionals in the state
 - c. _____ licensing more nurse/midwives
 - d. _____ creating more community-based health care delivery locations
 - e. _____ providing health care and behavioral health services to mothers for one year postpartum regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy
 - f. _____ enacting paid family and medical leave for all workers

Comments:

- 10. To continue to reduce the infant mortality rate in Oklahoma, the LWVOK supports:
(Place an X in front of the statements to include in the 2021 LWVOK Health Care position.)
 - a. _____ increasing support for the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaboration and their work in improving health care for mothers and infants
 - b. _____ expanding efforts to prevent premature deliveries
 - c. _____ home visitation for postpartum mothers and infants for the first year after delivery
 - d. _____ expanding efforts to lower the number of teen pregnancies
 - e. _____ increasing the number of women who have primary care providers
 - f. _____ increasing the number of women who receive prenatal care in the first trimester
 - g. _____ continuing to promote safe sleep measures, breastfeeding and the use of infant car seats

Comments:

11. To reduce maternal mortality in Oklahoma, the LWVOK supports: (Place an X in front of statements to include in the LWVOK 2021 position on health care.)
- a. _____ increasing the number of Oklahomans with health insurance by expanding Medicaid coverage and more
 - b. _____ continuing to support the work of the state Maternal Mortality Review Committee in compiling consistent data on maternal deaths and their causes
 - c. _____ expanding Medicaid coverage for women one year postpartum
 - d. _____ establishing treatment protocols for perinatal women to be used in all clinics and hospitals, and by all health care professionals
 - e. _____ ensuring that all women have regular health care throughout their lives
 - f. _____ screening perinatal mothers for depression a year after delivery

Comments:

12. Which of the factors mentioned in the section on behavioral health should be mentioned in the LWVOK position on health care? Place an X in front of the factors that should be included. You may add factors mentioned in the reading if you wish.

- a. _____ the U.S. ranking as the country with the highest incidence of mental illness
- b. _____ the percentage of people with mental illness whose conditions had gone untreated
- c. _____ the process of deinstitutionalization and its consequences
- d. _____ Oklahoma's ranking in comparison to other states in the area of both mental illness and substance abuse.
- e. _____ funding for the treatment of mental illness
- f. _____ jails and prisons as appropriate places for the treatment of mental illness
- g. _____ schools' ability to treat children with mental illness

Comments:

13. What should the new health care position say about the government's role in ensuring that all Oklahoman's have access to health insurance?
- a. Nothing
 - b. That Oklahomans should have at minimum the level of access of typical states.
 - c. That all Oklahomans should have the level of access stipulated in the original ACA.
 - d. That all Oklahomans should have the same level of access.

Comments:

14. What should the new health care position say about Medicaid expansion for Oklahoma? Choose among the first three options or create your own option.
- a. Nothing
 - b. Oklahoma should expand Medicaid to those at 138% of the poverty level as specified in the ACA initially.
 - c. Oklahoma Medicaid expansion should be studied further.
 - d. Other

Comments:

15. What should the new health care position say about Oklahomans' access to wellness, preventative, and routine primary health care? (Rank 1 to 4, with 4 being your most preferred response and 1 your least preferred.)
- a. Nothing
 - b. Access to primary health care should be as specified in the initial ACA.
 - c. Access to primary health care should be available to all Oklahomans.
 - d. Other

Comments:

16. Which of the factors mentioned in the section on improving health outcomes in Oklahoma should be mentioned in the LWVOK position on health care. Place an X in front of all factors that should be mentioned. You may add items from the reading if you wish.

- a. _____ the need for advanced primary care
- b. _____ the use of data analytics and artificial intelligence
- c. _____ the use of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to increase the cadre of health professionals
- d. _____ the degree to which Oklahoma is meeting or not meeting the health goals established by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- e. _____ the need for a greater emphasis on preventive care

Comments: