



The Partnership hosts first Healthcare Council of 2015: What Does Obamacare Mean for Your Business in 2015?

The Partnership held the first 2015 Healthcare Council on Feb. 24 in the Partnership board room. Council Host Jason Mercer, Director of Business Development, Acadian Ambulance Service welcomed Council speaker Mark Bellman, Vice President of Small Business Sales and Account Management for the South Texas division of UnitedHealthcare. Bellman discussed what the Affordable Care Act means for businesses, predictions for its impact, and strategies one can take to adjust to the new healthcare law.



Health insurance purchasing can be divided into three groups: individuals, small businesses, and large employers. Individuals can now purchase health coverage on the exchange, with the ability to compare plans side by side. Small businesses have been divided into two groups: those between 2 – 50 employees who are not required to provide health coverage but have the opportunity to utilize the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP), offering their employees coverage through a marketplace, and are subject to adjusted community rating; and those between 51 – 100 employees, who must provide their employees with health coverage or else suffer an employer penalty and are subject to adjusted community rating. Finally, those employers with 100 or more employees are subject to the employer mandate.

Bellman predicted even more changes could come with a new president and congress in office in 2017.