

THE CUBE APPROACH TO HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM FROM THE BOTTOM UP

A successful health care system is comprised of integrated, interdependent, and interrelated components determined through addressing a set of constant, essential standards or “rules” which help assure any community most effectively and efficiently responds to its unique population, economic, social, etc. dimensions or “givens.” It is formulated much like solving a SUDOKU puzzle.

Each column, row, and square must contain the numbers 1-9, once and only once. In each puzzle (like each community) the beginning (or “given”) numbers vary and appear in different positions and order. There are also a number of different approaches or techniques one can apply to help solve the puzzle as long as one follows the “rules”. This application is influenced by the value, position, and order of the numbers given and the knowledge and wisdom of the “solver” regarding the scope, efficacy, etc. of various intervention techniques.

The solution to each puzzle – like each community – is quite different although the rules and basic numbers 1-9 are the same. If one addresses an individual column, row or square linearly, i.e., not simultaneously considering the interaction of a proposed entry with the other two dimensions noted, the odds of successfully solving the puzzle are quite low and the likelihood of “chaos” very high.