THE PERSPECTIVE

THE PURPOSE OF HEALTH POLICY

- Health care systems are permanently changing due to powerful forces such as scientific advances, social and economic conditions, and demography.
- A balance must exist between health needs, services, and resources (Donabedian) and it is under constant pressure.
- This balance cannot be achieved (or restored) naturally and requires deliberate interventions guided by expertise, experience, and values.
BALANCING ACT
THE NEED FOR POLICY

- Various means of achieving and preserving the right balance between needs, services, and resources have been considered.
- No solution is perfect, no solution is permanent, from the initial insistence on governance, through the concern with quality, to the current focus on value.
- It should go without saying: it is naïve to believe (or misleading to pretend) that knowing what is wanted will tell you how to get there.
It is tempting to define policy in terms of *structure* – the search for the perfect form or the exhaustive set of functions or the ideal governance model.

It is tempting to define policy in terms of *agency* – the right incentives or the proper capacities or the appropriate participants.

It is even tempting to limit policy to *statements* of intention – a bold vision or a great plan or some well articulated goals.
The course of any given policy, whether it will succeed or fail, is determined by “a complex interweaving and interplay between structure, agency and ideas …”

STRATEGIES
FROM VALUES TO VALUE

- From to regions to *bundles* ....
- From citizens to patients ....
- From reporting to open data ....
ENDPOINTS
THE CONSENSUS

- Strong primary health care
- Extended range of services and goods
- Effective care teams
- Established pathways
- Shared decision making
- Data informed
- Outcomes driven investments
CRITICAL ISSUES/1

NEEDS

- Contested and variable standards of care
- Limited basket of services
- Unresolved tensions around “wants”
CRITICAL ISSUES/2
SERVICES

- Poor workforce planning
- Outdated definition of necessity
- Overuse and waste
CRITICAL ISSUES/3 RESOURCES

- Data strategy wanting
- Flimsy federal leadership
- Litigated access
THE AGENDA

WITHOUT TRADE-OFFS, NO MOVEMENT

- Efficiency
- Innovation
- Engagement
- Equity
THANK YOU!

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