



Focus on the Future

Guest Predictions: Phil Morphew

Guest Predictions is a regular feature in which we ask leaders in a number of professions a set of questions that affect us all.

**Phil Morphew,
CEO Indiana Primary Care Association**

Phil Morphew is a former TRG Associate. Morphew is currently CEO of the Indiana Primary Care Association since August, 2009. He is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Business, and holds a Masters degree from Dartmouth College. Previously, Phil was CEO of Health Care Excel (1979-2001). He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zimbabwe. Phil resides in Indianapolis.

Q: What changes in your professional environment in the past 3-5 years have you found to be the most beneficial?

A: The Affordable Care Act, if fully implemented (and that is presently a pretty big "if") may result in significant growth of community health centers as the locus of primary care. Community health centers deliver superior quality primary care at a lower cost, and do so in medically underserved areas.

Q: What changes have been the most troubling to you?

A: The polarization of perspectives we see in national politics seems to be a reflection of polarization at the local level. I am troubled by our apparent growing inability to hold civil conversations about our differences.

Q: How will globalization affect your professional area in the near term?

A: If we can be open-minded as a nation, globalization could lead us to examine health systems in other parts of the world, particularly in Europe, that have resulted in better outcomes (lower costs and better health).

Q: What significant challenges might be anticipated in your professional area in the next few years?

A: Significant growth of community health centers will challenge state primary care entities and their member entities to keep up. We will be particularly challenged to find enough doctors and nurses to meet the expanded demand.

Q: What are the greatest challenges confronting young professionals in Western culture today?

A: The two greatest challenges are posed by the ongoing rapid evolution of information technology, and ever-present information overload. Health professionals are now expected to remain current in IT, and to use advanced technology routinely in providing the best possible care. This means the efficient exchange of health information in electronic format, accessing latest clinical research and practice guidelines, ensuring that all available information is gleaned and considered before reaching an appropriate determination, and communicating with other professionals and patients in real time.