Public Policy and A.S.P.E.N.

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What is Public Policy?

- Principles that govern actions directed toward an end

- Deliberate plan of action to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes

Policy versus Law

- Policy merely guides actions
- Law compels or prohibits behavior

Types of Policies

- Social
- Institutional
- Organizational
- Health
- Economic
- Public

Theoretical Framework

- **Kingdon's Policy "Streams"**
- Problems
- Policy
- Political

- **Anderson's Sequential Model**
- Agenda setting
- Formulation
- Program implementation
- Policy evaluation

Public Policy Players and Actors

- Legislative Branch - members, committees and staff
- Executive Branch - the agencies and bureaucrats
- Judicial Branch - the amicus curiae brief
- The rest of us

The Senate

- **Finance Committee, subcommittee on health care (Medicare and Medicaid)**
  - J. Rockefeller, Chair (D-WV)
  - O. Hatch, Ranking (R-UT)
- **Health, Education, Labor and Pensions**
  - E. Kennedy, Chair (D-MA)
  - M. Enzi (R-WY)

House of Representatives

- **Appropriations, Subcommittee - Labor, Health & Human Services**
  - D. Obey, Chair (D-WI)
  - J Walsh, Ranking (R-NY)

- **Energy & Commerce - Subcommittee on Health**
  - F. Pallone, Chair (D-NJ)
  - N. Deal (R-GA)

Ways & Means

- ## Health Subcommittee

- Health care, healthcare delivery systems and research

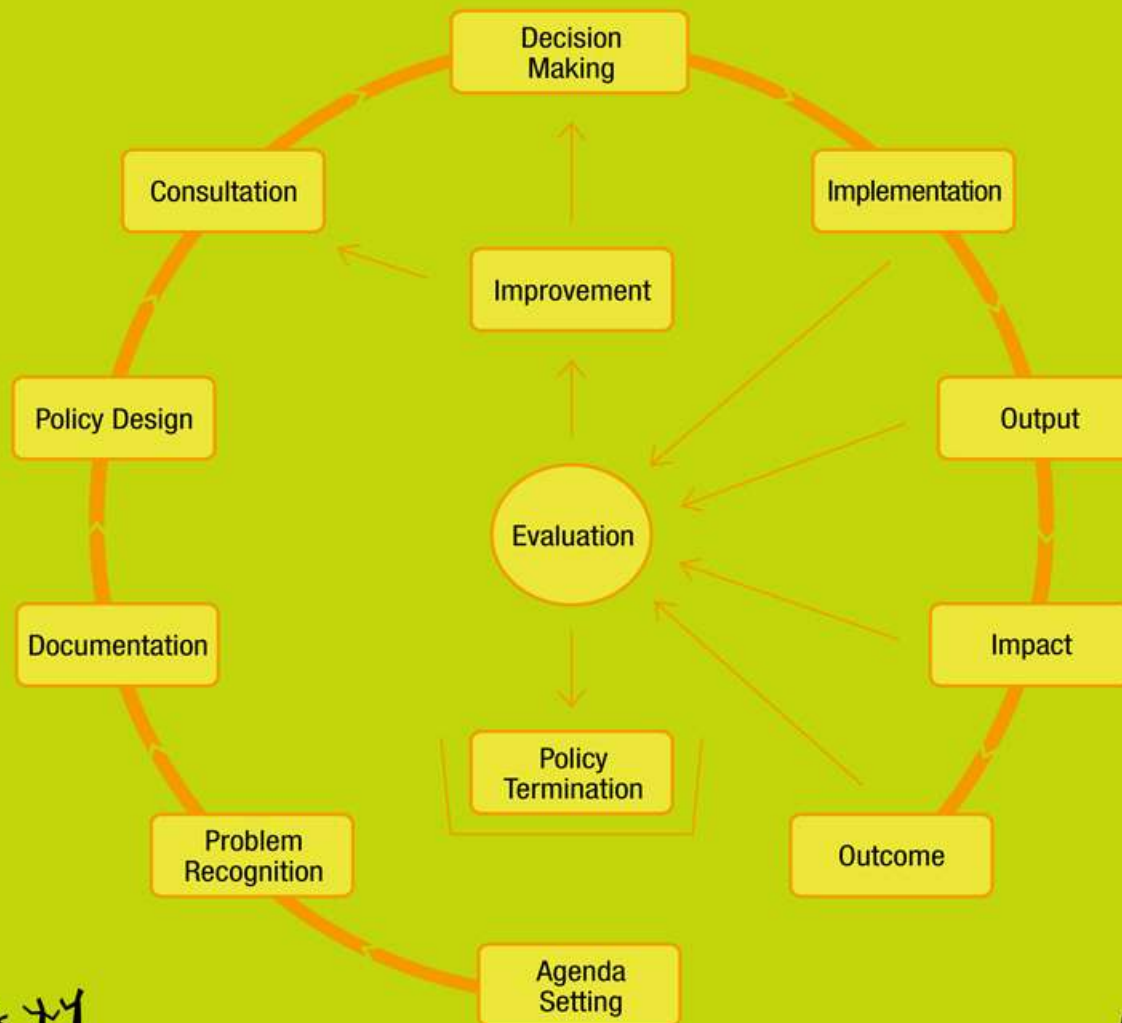- F. "Pete" Stark, Chair (D-CA)

Other Useful Players

- Congressional Budget Office
- General Accountability Office
- Congressional Research Office (Library of Congress)
- Congressional staff (Health LA's vs committee staff)

Executive Branch

- White House and Executive Office
- Office of Management & Budget
- Dept of Health & Human Services
  - NIH, CMS, FDA, CDC, AHRQ, HRSA, etc.
- Dept of Agriculture
- Dept of Veterans Affairs

Judicial Branch

- The amicus curiae brief, or "friend of the court"
- A.S.P.E.N.'s involvement

UNDERSTANDING THE POLICY CYCLE

Agenda setting: generating public interest in a problem   **Problem recognition:** selection of a problem that will be treated in the political system   **Documentation:** scientific analysis of the problem   **Policy Design:** development of a political solution   **Consultation:** testing the acceptance of the policy by different interest groups   **Decision Making:** choosing a solution   **Implementation:** provision of resources   **Output:** what the program actually produces   **Impact:** specific impact of the program on the community   **Outcome:** degree to which the impact on the community solves the problem   **Evaluation:** evaluation of a policy during different stages of the policy cycle   **Improvement:** improving a policy that has been evaluated   **Policy termination:** ending a policy that does not work or is not necessary any more

Public Policy - our role

- Advocate

  Patients (with Oley, DDNC, others in coalition)

  Ourselves - see A.S.P.E.N. Strategic Management Program 2007-2008 Goals & Objectives

- Educate our membership of the importance of our involvement

Lobbying (in a 501(c)3)

About 20,000 bills are introduced in each Congress - about 5% become law (1,000)

Finding the right person to head up the problem

Providing testimony

- In person
- In writing

Following your "stream"

- Legislative - follow Thomas; know the health LA or subcommittee staff; CSPAN 1, 2 and 3

- Executive - follow the "stream" through the appropriate agency; reading the Federal Register; meeting the bureaucrats (who write the regs.)

Whole Picture in Focus

- Discussion
- Questions
- Further reading
- Getting involved with a fellowship (RWJ)
- Where do we go from here?