

Texas CHIP Coalition Minutes
Friday, November 18, 2005 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Texas Medical Association
May Owen Conference Room, 10th Floor

Anne Dunkelberg called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

There were no official updates from HHSC; however, Anne Dunkelberg shared several email correspondences from HHSC on requests previously made by the coalition. One request was an update on the CHIP asset limit test. Rick Allgeyer of HHSC provided Anne a copy of the CHIP asset report completed for fiscal year 2005 through September and October 2006. See attached document.

The coalition had previously requested enrollment data on the Katrina Medicaid Waiver. Mr. Allgeyer informed Anne that the data would be available for the coalition by the next week. The HHSC presentation to Senate Finance in Beaumont contains the limited information available to date, and is attached.

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) has communicated with H&R Block about Block's activities around the U.S. screening their tax clients for eligibility for public services, such as identifying clients whose children may be eligible for CHIP or Medicaid, but are not enrolled in the program. Last year, H&R Block conducted some pilot activities in the CHIP EPO areas of the state. Anne will report back on the details of H&R Block's Texas activities when she gets more information.

There was brief discussion on the new Children's Insurance application. The coalition was provided a draft of the new application that is being developed by HHSC. The new Children's Insurance application is designed to be more seamless, with less distinction between children's Medicaid and CHIP. The application will be available in January and eventually the HHSC logo will replace the TexCare logo. See attachment.

The coalition discussed its interest in HHSC inviting more stakeholder input on changes to policy procedures and materials before changes become finalized. The coalition is very interested in rebuilding the level of collaboration that once existed between state officials and the Texas Statewide CHIP coalition.

The coalition brainstormed on how best to troubleshoot problems that may arise with families once the new IEE system is in operation. Participants agreed it would be important to share information about issues that arise in the roll-out, both to correct problems for individual clients and to identify trends and patterns.

CHIP dental benefits are scheduled to roll out April 1, 2006. There were several questions and concerns regarding the delay in implementing the dental benefits.

Unfortunately, HHSC was not available to attend the meeting to address the questions; however, the coalition will request an update at the December meeting.

Several organizations briefly shared their legislative agendas that are currently being prepared. Patti Everett suggested having a group meeting to discuss and explore legislative priorities.

Anne provided a federal update on the budget reconciliation. Last-minute changes to the House bill made no significant improvement in cuts to food stamps, foster care, SSI, child care, child support enforcement, and Medicaid. The co-pay limit did not increase from \$3-\$5 for Medicaid recipients' below the poverty line. However, there is a provision in the bill that ties the increase in the allowable co-payments to medical inflation, which is more than double what Medicaid eligibility guidelines will increase by. The bill would also allow states to charge unlimited co-payments and impose large premiums on patients above the federal poverty limit (or 133% FPL for ages 1-6). This would greatly affect some disabled and long-term care patients.

With no other discussion items, the meeting adjourned at 1:00p.m.

The next CHIP coalition meeting will be held on Friday, December 16, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at TMA, 401 W. 15th Street, in the May Owen Conference Room, 10th floor.