

Texas CHIP Coalition Minutes  
Friday, January 13, 2006 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
May Owen Conference Room, 10th Floor  
Texas Medical Association

Anne Dunkelberg called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Coalition guests from HHSC included Colleen Grace, Lead Health Plan Manager; Susan Gibson, Health Plan Manager; Melanie Bush, Senior Policy Analyst, Medicaid/CHIP Policy Development; Joanne Molina, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Social Services; and Skye Kilaen, External Relations Specialist.

HHSC Updates

Susan Gibson and Colleen Grace gave an update on the CHIP dental benefit, tentatively scheduled for implementation on April 1, 2006. The state contract with Delta Dental is value-based purchase, which holds the contractors accountable for their performance. Thus far Delta Dental has contracted approximately 300 providers and are seeking to contract more.

The dental benefit will be a three-tier package offering both preventive and therapeutic benefits in all tiers. Families will be assigned to a tier group (tier I, tier II or tier III) based on several criteria. New enrollees will be assigned to Tier I, enrollees who are deemed from Medicaid will be assigned to Tier II. Families who renew in a timely manner will enhance benefits up to Tier III. The maximum 12 month benefit for 6 months dental coverage under Tier I is \$375, Tier II \$475 and Tier III \$575. Each tier will have a dental benefit amount of \$175 for preventive care and therapeutic benefit amount will vary: Tier I \$200, Tier II \$300 and Tier III \$400. Families will be given a 1-month grace period. Families can use all their dental benefits in the first 6 months of coverage.

Within 60 days of the effective date, Delta Dental will notify current CHIP enrollees about the restored dental benefit, via the enrollment packet. Provider rates will be comparable to the previous CHIP benefit rates two years ago. For more information, providers and members can contact Delta Dental. See attachment.

HHSC was asked to share communications about the dental benefits that are mailed to families with the coalition in order to better assist CHIP families with questions they may have regarding the correspondence.

Julia Easley, chair of the Dallas Area TexCare Outreach Coalition, offered HHSC assistance to help recruit dentists in the surrounding area to participate in the CHIP dental program. Ms. Grace will be contacting Ms. Easley to further discuss the opportunity to help recruit dental providers.

Melanie Bush gave an update on the Women's Health Waiver that was submitted to CMS on December 29, 2005. HHSC is scheduled to have a conference call with CMS the week of January 16 to discuss the budget. Attached is an updated summary on the Women's Health Waiver. The full range of Medicaid Family Planning services will be offered under the Women's Health Waiver.

Joanne Molina gave an update on the Integrated Eligibility & Enrollment (IEE) system. As of December 1, 2005 the Texas Access Alliance (TAA) assumed eligibility and enrollment operations for CHIP. On January 2, 2006, TAA began receiving all new applications. This

does not include renewals. Renewals will continue to be handled by the local offices until roll-out is completed. TAA has 45 days to process an application, but must take some form of action within 5 days of receiving an application. An action may be in the form of requesting more information or making an eligibility determination. The state has implemented a quality assurance process to monitor all aspects of the new system.

On January 20, the new eligibility system rolled out in Travis and Hays counties. Three offices in Austin and the San Marcos office are being piloted and families in these counties can now apply for Medicaid, CHIP, TANF and long-term care via phone, internet, fax, mail or in person. To access the latest news release on the IEE rollout in Travis and Hays counties, visit the HHSC website:

[www.hhs.state.tx.us/news/release/012406\\_NewEligibility.shtml](http://www.hhs.state.tx.us/news/release/012406_NewEligibility.shtml)

Ms. Molina addressed several questions and issues from the group. She shared some suggestions and recommendations offered by the coalition with HHSC and followed-up with the coalition to provide clarification on several other questions. See attachment.

There was brief discussion regarding media and marketing materials. Ms. Molina indicated that Stephanie Goodman would be the appropriate person to contact for inquiries on marketing.

When the time is appropriate, Anne Dunkelberg asked Joanne for an update from HHSC on the federal budget reconciliation bill requirement of proof of citizenship by Medicaid and long-term care recipients. Currently, in the state of Texas, proof of citizenship is only required by applicants seeking TANF. Proof of citizenship would require a birth certificate, passport or something comparable. A Texas driver's license will no longer serve as proof of identification. If this new requirement is implemented, it could be a barrier for applicants who were not born in Texas.

#### Announcements

Sonia Lara reminded coalition members about the upcoming *Texas Health Care Access Conference* in February 28, at the Marriott Austin South Airport. Hotel rooms are still available at the discount rate and early registration ends January 31. (*Note: If you wish to register for the conference, see the attached registration form.*)

Anne and Sonia went to Washington D.C. January 18-20 on behalf of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Covering Kids & Families initiative to visit 5 congressional offices to discuss the successes and challenges of the Texas CHIP Coalition. A one-pager emphasizing the progress in Texas on covering more kids and the need to invest more in outreach was left with congressional staff. See attachment for the one-pager.

The next CHIP coalition meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at TMA, 401 W.15<sup>th</sup> Street, in the Thompson Auditorium, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

With no other agenda items, the CHIP Coalition meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.