



## **Children's Health Coverage Coalition Meeting Agenda**

Friday, April 22nd

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

### **CHCC Agenda**

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11:00 A.M. - 11:05 A.M.

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

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11:05 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.

#### **Interim Charges: Discussion; Strategies & Talking Points**

- Stacey Pogue - Every Texan
  - Clayton Travis - Texas Pediatric Society
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11:45 A.M. - 11:50 A.M.

#### **Public Health Emergency Timeline Update**

- Diana Forester - Texans Care for Children
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11:50 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

#### **Public Health Emergency Advocacy**

- Stacey Pogue – Every Texan
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12:00 P.M. - 12:20 P.M.

#### **Public Health Emergency Outreach: Initial Discussion**

- TACHC
  - CDF
  - TMA
  - THA
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12:20 P.M. - 12:25 P.M.

#### **Federal Updates: Federal Fix and Family Glitch**

- Adrienne Lloyd - Children's Defense Fund - TX



## April Children's Health Coverage Coaliton Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 22nd, 2022

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

### On Video Conference Call:

Myles Anderson  
Diane Rhodes  
Clayton Travis  
Betsy Coats  
Diana Forester  
Stacey Pogue  
Allison McHorse  
Moriah Hernandez  
Sonia Lara  
Krista Del Gallo  
Preston Poole  
Brittany McAllister  
Adrienne Lloyd  
Michelle Tijerina  
Sebastien Laroche  
Michelle Romero  
Ashley Harris  
Elaine Vivens  
Veronica Moore  
Denise Gomez  
Daniela De Luna  
Christina L

Meeting Chair: Clayton Travis - Texas Pediatric Society

Meeting Scribe: Myles Anderson - Every Texan



### **Interim Charges: Discussion; Strategies & Talking Points**

[See Relevant 2022 Interim Charges Below]

**Brittany McAllister:** We have also met with the select committee and asked them to deprioritize pregnant and postpartum women as well in the Public Health Emergency reenrollment determinations and they seemed open to it, so we will be speaking on that to try and prevent mothers from losing coverage.

**Stacey Pogue:** Are there any coverage expansion policy ideas that are not directly Medicaid Expansion or 12-month's Continuous Coverage for Kids or Postpartum Medicaid?

**Clayton Travis:** I think Medicaid Expansion has been put on pause due to hopes of a federal fix like Build Back Better, but we should have a conversation with other partners about creative solutions.

**Stacey Pogue & Clayton Travis:** There is a vision stance we can promote to law-makers about the idea that every child in Texas should be insured? The caveat is that undocumented children will be left out, but it may enable us to get more buy-in from republican lawmakers. We will set up a meeting to nail down exactly how we can get this message across

### **Public Health Emergency Timeline Update**

**Stacey Pogue:** The PHE has been in place since January 2020, and shortly after that, Medicaid disenrollment has paused. Right now the PHE has been extended through mid-July, and the big question is, will it get extended again.

We will know more on May 16th if the PHE will be extended again. The federal government will give us a 60 day notice. If the PHE does not get extended, disenrollemts will resume August 1st.

[See Timeline]:

<https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2022/04/13/once-again-secretary-becerra-extends-the-phe-what-does-this-mean-for-the-medicaid-continuous-coverage-protection/>



### **Public Health Emergency Advocacy**

**Stacey Pogue:** 10 different organizations put a letter together for HHSC regarding best practices that can be taken to ensure the least amount of eligible people are disenrolled during the unwinding of the PHE. The biggest thing to target are procedural issues such as updating addresses and other steps that, if aren't taken by members, can result in them being disenrolled or not transferred to another program that will keep them covered. In addition, taking some of the load of the 2-1-1 system by involving more level three community partners

[See letter from Cover Texas Now]:

<https://covertexasnow.org/posts/2022/4/11/10-texas-groups-urge-state-to-prepare-for-end-of-public-health-emergency>

### **Public Health Emergency Outreach: Initial Discussion**

**Sonia Lara:** TACHC got a small grant to develop materials for outreach. We are trying to create materials that all of our partners can use. In addition, we may be hosting a webinar for health centers to explain the dynamics of the PHE, as well as tackle what are the best ways to get clients to update contact information. We are also thinking about doing media trainings.

**Adrienne Lloyd:** Some CDF partners believe the PHE may be extended which affects the timeline and our planning. For now, we are thinking about using schools and school administrators to get the messaging out. We are also looking to partner with Spanish language media to collaborate around segments regarding PHE unwinding which may look like paid advertisement.

**Michelle Tijerina:** At Central Health we are planning on using social media campaigns as well as radio campaigns.

### **Federal Updates: Federal Fix and Family Glitch**

**Adrienne Lloyd:** There's not a ton to update on the coverage gap. There's still a lot of disagreements in congress around a coverage gap. By July 4th we are hoping to get more updates. In terms of the family glitch, it's an opportunity to extend marketplace subsidies to about 5 million people, mostly kids and women, who can't afford employer-based coverage. If all goes to plan, that should be rolling out in 2023.



## Relevant 2022 Interim Charges

### House

#### Select Committee on Health Care Reform

Study the implications of **excessive health care costs on the efficacy of Texas Medicaid** and the private health insurance market and the resulting impact on individual Texans, businesses, and state government. Specifically, the committee shall:

- Examine the interaction of specific factors of health care affordability such as transparency, competition, and patient incentives. Make recommendations to expand access to health care price information to allow consumers to make informed decisions regarding their care;
- Examine the impact of government benefit, administrative, and contractual mandates imposed upon private insurance companies and their impact on employer and consumer premiums and out-of-pocket costs, including the effects of specific benefit and any-willing-provider requirements. Make recommendations for state and agency level mandates and regulations that could be relaxed or repealed to increase the availability and affordability of private health coverage options in this state; and
- Review access to and affordability of prescription drugs;

Evaluate innovative, fiscally positive options to ensure that Texans have **access to affordable, quality, and comprehensive health care**, with an emphasis on reaching low income and at-risk populations. The evaluation should include a study of strategies other states and organizations have implemented or proposed to address health care access and affordability. Make recommendations to increase primary health care access points in Texas;

Study ways to **improve outreach to families with children who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, Medicaid or CHIP**, including children in rural areas; and

Examine the potential **impact of delayed care on the state's health care delivery system, health care costs, and patient health outcomes**, as well as best practices for getting patients with foregone or delayed health interventions back into the health care system. The study should consider patient delays in obtaining preventive and primary health services, such as well-child



care, prenatal care, screenings for cancer and chronic disease, behavioral health, and immunizations, in addition to delays in seeking urgent care or care for chronic illness.

## **Committee on Appropriations**

Monitor and oversee the implementation of appropriations bills and other relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature, including the following:

- SB 1 (87R), General Appropriations Act;
- HB 5 (87S2) and SB8 (87S3), relating to making supplemental appropriations and giving direction regarding appropriations; and
- SB 52 (87S3), relating to the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects at public institutions of higher education.

Review the information technology (IT) supporting the Texas Medicaid Program. Evaluate the IT systems' capability to meet the needs of Texas Medicaid to ensure the Health and Human Services Commission's acquisition and procurement processes comply with the requirements of SB 1, Rider 6 (Health and Human Services Commission), relating to Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership; Section 9.01 (Purchases of Information Resources Technologies); and Section 9.02 (Quality Assurance Review of Major Information Resources Projects). Identify ways to:

- Modernize systems and improve interoperability between systems;
- Ensure IT functionality is aligned with the needs of the Medicaid Program, including conformity to the managed care model;
- Reduce administrative burdens;
- Provide cost savings;
- Improve future procurements; and
- Create better transparency and oversight of Medicaid IT contracts.



## Committee on Human Services

**Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction** and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- Legislation implementing the Healthy Families, Healthy Texas initiative, including:
  - **HB133**, relating to the provision of benefits under Medicaid and the Healthy Texas Women program; and
  - **Relevant provisions of HB2658**, relating to the administration and operation of the Medicaid managed care program, especially those provisions that relate to continuous eligibility for a child for Medicaid; and
- HB 3041, related to the implementation of the Family Preservation Services Pilot Program.

**Monitor implementation of SB1, Rider 30** (Health and Human Services Commission) and make recommendations for reducing the interest list for waiver services for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and reducing associated staffing shortages

**Monitor federal decisions** that may impact the delivery and financial stability of the state's health programs, including: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' rescission of its 16 prior approval of the State's 1115 Waiver, the state and federal negotiations of the Medicaid directed payment programs (including hospital finance methods), federal changes to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital Program and the exclusion of certain costs from the uncompensated care program authorized through the 1115 Waiver.

## Committee on Insurance

**Review existing state laws, administrative regulations, and agency practices to identify barriers to competition in the insurance marketplace. Examine existing business practices in the industry to determine if additional laws or regulations are needed to promote competition, lower premiums, and protect consumers.**



## **Committee on Public Education**

**Examine the impact of COVID-19 on students' mental health**, including the availability and workload of mental health professionals across the state and their role in the public school system. Make recommendations to reduce or eliminate existing barriers to providing mental health services in a traditional classroom setting or through teletherapy.

**Examine the causes and contributors for chronic absenteeism** in public schools and its impact on student outcomes. Consider techniques and approaches that have been utilized by public schools to identify students who are chronically absent and return these students to classrooms.

## **Committee on Public Health**

Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- **HB 4, relating to the provision and delivery of telemedicine and telehealth services;** and
- HB 1616, relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Examine existing resources and available opportunities to **strengthen the state's nursing and other health professional workforce**, including rural physicians and nurses.

Assess ongoing challenges in the **rural health care system** and the impact of legislation and funding from the 87th regular and special sessions on strengthening rural health care and the sustainability of rural hospitals and health care providers. Evaluate federal regulations authorizing the creation of a Rural Emergency Hospital provider type and determine if promoting this type of facility could increase local access to care in rural areas of the state.



## Senate

### Finance Committee

**Federal Funds:** Report on the state use of federal COVID-19 relief funds provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, the American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Acts, and similar federal legislation. Examine local use of federal relief funding, including funding provided to school districts through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. Evaluate the overall fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on state agencies, including costs incurred due to federal mandates. Identify barriers to the effective utilization of funds and make recommendations on the expenditure of unappropriated funds. In addition, evaluate and report on the spending by state agencies that have been utilizing "one-time" federal funding (temporary enhancements, e.g. FMAP and ESSER) sources, where federal funding will likely be significantly reduced in future biennia.

**Medicaid:** Monitor the financial impact of federal decision-making affecting supplemental Medicaid funding for Texas hospitals and health care systems, including negotiations between the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Texas Medicaid agency regarding the state's 1115 Medicaid waiver and other federal proposals reducing supplemental funding streams for Texas.

### Health and Human Services Committee

**Foster Care:** Evaluate state investments in the child welfare system. Examine reasons for delayed implementation of past legislative reforms and any deficient agency performance metrics. Identify ways to continue to improve the child welfare system in Texas and consider other state models to ensure the health and well-being for children in state care.

**Health Care Workforce:** Study the impact of the global pandemic on the health care workforce in acute and long-term care. Identify health care staffing challenges and examine how staffing services and payment models changed the economics of the health care workforce. Identify and recommend ways to increase the health care workforce pipeline.



**Pandemic Response:** Examine the impact of state and federal pandemic policies—including agency guidance, licensing and regulatory actions, and health care industry policies—on patient care and treatment delivery. Examine how regulatory guidance impacts the patient-doctor relationship. Recommend any changes needed to ensure Texas can develop its own data driven guidance during public health emergencies.

**Monitoring:** Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 87th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation.