



Texas CHIP Coalition
Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2015

Present: Bob Reed, Parkland Hospital
Maria Mendoza, Logisticare
Grace Chimene, League of Women Voters Texas
Maria Serafine, Lone Star Circle of Care
Nikki Metzgar, Center for Public Policy Priorities
Anne Dunkelberg, CPPP
Sandi Hancock, Lone Star Circle of Care
Nikki Vogel, NASW/TX
Laura Guerra-Cardus, Children's Defense Fund-TX
Patrick Bresette, CDF-TX
Melissa McChesney, CPPP
Clayton Travis, Texas Pediatric Society
Kathy Eckstein, CHAT
Kit Abney, Seton/IAC
Miryam Bujanda, Methodist Healthcare Ministries

On the phone: Alice Bufkin, Texans Care for Children
Shannon Lucas, March of Dimes
Daniela De Luna, HHSC
Leticia Ramirez, Strategy Resource Group

Chair: Miryam Bujanda, Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Minutes Scribe: Nikki Metzgar, Center for Public Policy Priorities
Next meeting: February 20, 2015

I. January 23 Legislative Briefing, Anne Dunkelberg, CPPP

- Aimed at educating legislative staff, refreshments at 12:45, program from 1-3pm
- We have a number of groups who have already pledged to help offset the costs, will get a number out soon
- For anyone who has a legislative contact list, please forward the invite
 - o CDF-TX intern is putting together a legislative list and will send
- Texas Pediatric Society intern to walk around flyers to offices Tuesday
- Also need 5-10 people who can help set up and take down and pick up food:
 - o Kathy Eckstein
 - o Laura Guerra-Cardus
 - o Maria Serafine (will be timekeeper)
 - o Clayton Travis (will bring laptop)
 - o Sister JT
- Shorter format this year, focusing on selected items from the principles that seem likely to get legislative attention

- Hard copies of principles, background document, one-pager about counties with CHIP kids, agenda + sign-ons (Kathy Eckstein can do some of the printing)
- Should we mention CHIP reauthorization at the meeting? Include in Patrick Bresette's section
- Everyone in Coalition attending, please RSVP to Nikki (metzgar@cphp.org)

II. CHIP Reauthorization Strategies, Laura Guerra-Cardus, CDF-TX

- A meeting with Congressman Burgess is coming up (Matt Moore will be the policy lead, City Square, Reverend Britt and volunteers from Moms Rising will be joining)
- Desire for more visits like this, but needs organizations
 - o Joe Barton joined as an author for 12 month continuous coverage for Medicaid; might be a person we want to visit
- One of the most important aspects for advocates is the timeline of the refunding; we need to push for it in the first quarter of this year because there is a concern that waiting until September will mean that CHIP will be modified or used as a bargaining chip to Medicaid. States are creating their budgets now and need to know what they can count on.
- How do you create urgency when the timeline is technically until September?
- CHAT's national organization is having a push to get it done early; flying in doctors to talk to Congressmen. Unsuccessful getting Cornyn on board
- When would the state actually run out of CHIP funds if not renewed on federal level?
- If anyone needs talking points on the issue, THA and CDF have some.

III. CTN Advocacy, Laura Guerra-Cardus, CDF-TX

- CDF is sending out an email next week for March 12 Advocacy Day; in the past members of CHIP Coalition have contributed through funding and we are looking for people to fund buses to bring people from San Antonio, Houston and the Valley
- Please let Anne or Laura know if your organization can pitch in

IV. Update on Legislative Sign-ons, Nikki Metzgar, CPHP

- Not all organizations that supported principles in 2013 have signed on in 2015
- Members will share contacts for organizations for CPHP to reach out to personally

V. Perinatal workgroup update, Shannon Lucas, March of Dimes

- The workgroup has been trying to see if there is any interest in Legislature on pushing the eligibility timeframe longer than 60 days after pregnancy to 18 months
- Dr. Lisa Hollier went on some of the meetings and recommended 18 months as necessary to health of mother
- Met with Sarah Davis, Huffman; have not heard back from their offices. Spoke with Senator Nelson, Zerwas
- So far, everyone has been interested to listen. They've heard the request before based on post-partum depression and now we are approaching it from the whole women's health perspective. Women probably aren't self-identifying as having PP

depression. Unlikely that a woman would realize there's a special program for women with PP depression.

- We are moving forward with putting together a one-pager and plan to have something finalized by next week, though probably not in time for the Jan 23 meeting
- Will put the CHIP Coalition logo on the top of it and include somewhere in it all the organizations logos that are supporting
- Please send Shannon your logo if you want to be added to it

VI. HHSC ACA Update, Valerie Eubert and Gina Perez, HHSC

- (GP) **Presumptive eligibility**: vendor has deployed the PE website in December. On 12/13 systems changes deployed. Training will be deployed on Monday
- As of today we have 13 hospitals (with 31 locations) qualified to submit presumptive eligibility
- Must sign up to attend website training
- Going to use state staff to test before February
- If a hospital has a hospital-based PE worker, the application will go straight to them.
- (VE)-**Marketplace open enrollment** began on November 15 and runs through mid-February
- We saw an uptick in account transfers over the holidays; received more than 64000 since federal marketplace since Nov 15
- Significantly higher than last year, when we only started receiving transfers Jan 8; Total may be the same after more time
- Open question about when we stop reporting from the beginning of time; how will we start comparing data from year to year?
- As of Jan 8, we've received 304,000 unduplicated account transfers and we've processed 270,000 applications
- Approximately 77.5% of applications are denied; some are federal issues (people who didn't disclose their income and it was put down as zero)
- How many of the people being denied are lawfully present immigrant, which Texas has chosen to not include? How can we get that level of detail in the data to be able to see how large their part is?
- Could we have the breakdown of what programs people are being denied from? This data isn't available at the agency and also there isn't a streamlined line up between denied individuals and programs. You have to be denied from Medicaid before you can be approved from CHIP so you end up both denied and accepted and this data is hard to capture.

VII. Office of the Ombudsman Review, Paige Marsala and Jimmy Charney, HHSC Office of the Ombudsman

- We exist to assist HHSC enterprise clients with issues they haven't been able resolve through the local office's typical complaint process
- Act as a neutral resource; make sure HHSC is upholding their policies and practices; refer to themselves as "office of last resort"
- Compile and analyze inquiry and complaints data to identify serious systematic issues

- The majority of the issues we handle are related to eligibility for various programs (Medicaid Managed Care, SNAP, TANF, etc.)
- In the future, looking to collapse legacy numbers into one. Sometimes people call the office several times through the different numbers.
- Managed care reports go up to the executive level, will check to see if they are publicly available.
- If an east Texas resident has coverage and is in a managed care plan but have trouble finding a provider, do you get calls about this? Yes. How do you resolve these access issues? The plan has to be able to provide a primary care provider within 30 miles or contract. We have a contact with every single health plan and those care coordinators that we work with are consumer advocates. These problems are resolved unless the medical needs are not covered by Medicaid.
- Seeking resolution on continuous problem where a caseworker will get a DCN number on a case, but when we call 211 the taker doesn't know what to do with that number.

VIII. Community Partner Program update, Michael Grisham, HHSC

- Our 3rd birthday this month, we started with 8 community partners and now we have 1,000+
- Before June we're going to be implementing improvements to the CPP websites; a lot of organizations have multiple sites and we're going to make it easier for them to participate and manage their information in the program
- We're integrating community partners into the search function for HHSC offices so that clients can go to an organization in their community
- YTB.com portal migration: we're changing the website to look more like a real modern website and the application will be more intuitive and modern (August 2015)
- We're adding a mobile app training as a requirement for community partner certification
- Community based partners need the data to be able to demonstrate how many were enrolled and denied; we need to be able to understand that data and if there are holes, to really be able to explain holes. There is a February 10 meeting between CPP and partner organizations in order to discuss this if anyone would like to attend, email Laura Guerra-Cardus.