

CHIP Coalition Meeting
Friday, July 20, 2012

I. Introductions- see end for participants

II. SCOTUS

a. Anne- Recap of ACA Decision Effect on Medicaid

- Big pic- Statute still says MX is law. But removes Sec of HHS tradition ability to withhold funding. Never used in whole, other than some penalties. No change to other Mcaid provisions.
We will send out Sebelius' letter to National Governors Association and Marilyn Tavener's letter to Republican governors. <http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Secretary-Sebelius-Letter-to-the-Governors-071012.pdf> ; http://www.ffis.org/sites/ffis.org/files/public/CMS_Response_VA.pdf
- Future public health expansions not affected by decision.
- States that do Mcaid expansion have to adhere to ACA. HHS Secretary could offer waivers in future, possibly a phase-in, though that's perhaps not consistent with 1115 waiver purposes (lack of political will isn't something new that needs demonstration flexibility). No guidance on this expected before Nov-Dec.
- Anne's MedEx slides: <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=1214> *Will send out link to Georgetown CCF fact sheet about parents coverage effect on kids* (Laura Guerra-Cardus discussed this link b/t parent and child health later)
- New primary care rates in Mcaid still in effect for 2013-2014. If state decides to expand, it gets matched at 90-10 for the adult expansion group.
- Phasing down of DSH will continue
- Can a state drop in later years? Unknown, not expecting opinion anytime soon.
- There is assumption that in all states (incl those that don't expand), all kids below 133 who are currently in CHIP would move from CHIP to Medicaid, but state would still get the higher CHIP match for them
- Eligibility for HIX subsidies doesn't start until poverty line. 100%-133% would get subsidies, but adults below poverty would have no new coverage option without the Medicaid expansion.
- CMS has been telling states that are further along than Texas that only a state running its own exchange will have a basic health plan

b. Texas Landscape Regarding Court Ruling

- Perry, Straus, Suehs responded to ruling negatively
- Helen (TMA) on their response to Perry's Medicaid expansion statements: Have doctors both for and against. Survey shows 11% drop in doctor participation in Medicaid from 2010 survey. Lot of doctors are really, really frustrated with Medicaid. See THHSC OIG as a witch hunt. New rules and regulations burdensome. Lots have just had it. Dallas and Tyler (Smith County) local medical societies came out with statements in support of governor.

- Suehs argued for more flexibility during appropriations subcommittee hearing. Said there were 5 areas for needed flexibility, including cost-sharing (copays), benefit package, and eligibility. Have query out to his office for other 2.

c. Member groups' Position on Endorsing the Exchange and MX (Mcaid Expansion)

- Miryam: MHM supports expansion.
- Laura Guerra-Cardus: CDF is interested in including MX in CHIP Coalition. Evidence that parents health helps children's health.
- Anne: CPPP supports both. For groups that have more sensitive political environment, what do you see process being for coming to a decision? Should we move ahead without you or wait till after the election?
- TACHC- sees half of patients (.5 million) would benefit. Aug 13th meeting. Would be shocked if this didn't become endorsed.
- CHA- Planning on talking about it at next board meeting in Sept. CC is mainly for kids. Welcome mat there even without MX. Providers nervous will be on their backs.
- Sue Milam- NASW Texas solid behind these provisions.
- Scott- SA Non-Profit Counsel- meeting with advocacy committee on August 3rd. Been talked about. Many for it. No negative discussion to date.
- John with THA- August 9th board meeting. On agenda to decide. We're in favor of coverage. Unsure how it'll play out.
- Helen TMA- need to find a way to cover more Texans. Won't say anything otherwise till after election. Probably same with specialty associations.
- Anne- need to consider context of state revenue structural deficit and debt/deficit battles at federal level. Hence revenue included in principles.
- Lauren Dimitry- Texans Care for Children- solidly behind it. But will be talking it over.
- Mimi- if all we can agree on here is we need better coverage, there are groups, especially on consumer protection side, like Texas Well and Healthy/Children's Defense Fund/Center for Public Policy Priorities putting resources into the advocacy end on it.

III. Strategy and Messaging

- Communications. LGC- upcoming calls to action. *Will send out TWAH call to action on calling Perry, and July 30th Medicaid birthday action.*
- Mimi- we know about 78 (71 from TX) calls in short time to Governor's office post Perry's announcement. 1-888-530-9422.
- LGC to all: please be on lookout for families that would benefit from MX. Adults under 100% FPL. Parent or childless adult. Working is better.
- LGC on messaging:
 - From conference. Spitfire Consulting, which provides technical support for us, gave good messaging tips. 15 key messages on top of advice to not to box people in. Give people an out later on. Also:
 - Polling shows 70 percent ppl support MX. Medicaid is popular.
 - Make Mcaid available to those who qualify.
 - Problem is uncompensated care, solution is mcaid.

- MX and ACA are about econ security to tx families. Coverage is part of that and not need to take anything off the table. ****this is all we really need to do before the election****
- Can win human conversation, even if lose political conversation. Not “those people”, it’s any one of us tomorrow.
- We have strong base to stand on. Popular program. In all 50 states. Gives kids health coverage. This is the social norm. Voters want it. Evidence for it. Mcaid is more popular than politicians.
- Pitting educ vs. health care being done in Texas. This is false choice. 10. Keep maximum flexibility in these uncertain times. Don’t take options off the table. Not just the governor’s decision.
- People don’t care about programs, they care about people.
- Economic development plan. Will create X jobs more than apple plant, etc.
- Helen question: Polling is Lake Research polling. Consistent with Kaiser tracking polls.
- Mimi: *Send out link to Planet Money podcast.* Researchers were cautious about long-term savings of MX/ACA though.

IV. Medicaid Factoid Sheet (This was requested when we discussed the Coalition’s principles last time.)

- Ideas: Breaking down cost issue. Higher FMAP reimbursement rate under expansion.
- **** *Send out link to Commonwealth Institute of Virginia report***
- LGC: Back to messaging, good to give data-points, but always also include human argument.
- ~75% of Mcaid is delivered through managed private clinics and providers.

V. Joint State Senate HHS and State Affairs Hearing

- 9:00 AM, Wednesday, August 01, 2012, E1.036 (Finance Room)
- Texans Care for Children testifying.
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- AD and Kathy Eckstein and others will get together to compile questions regarding the new ACA Medicaid cost impact figures presented at House Appropriations committee on 7/12
- Kathy- we should ask for info *before* the hearing. Brainstorm:
 - We need numbers and assumptions in cost estimate.
 - Ask Suehs what his 5 requested areas of flexibility are.
 - Ask what the alternative to Medicaid expansion is.
 - Ask what they would do with block grant money if they got it.
 - What would the uncompensated care costs be if we don’t expand.
 - Other agency impacts: DSHS would have some savings in mental health services.

VI. Anne: MMM plug. Meeting today to plan march.

VII. Attendance

1. Miryam Bujanda (chair)- Methodist Healthcare Ministries
2. Anne Dunkelberg- Center for Public Policy Priorities

3. Marcus Denton- Center for Public Policy Priorities
4. Mimi Garcia- Engage Texas
5. Dolores Perez- Amerigroup
6. Sonia Lara- Texas Association of Community Health Clinics
7. Jana Blasi- Texas Association of Community Health Clinics
8. Yvonne Vaughan- San Antonio Food Bank
9. Cynthia Putnam- Public
10. Kathy Eckstein- Children's Hospital Association of Texas
11. Clayton Travis- Texans Care for Children
12. Lauren Dimitry- Texans Care for Children
13. Monica Burns- Central Health
14. Becky Huerta- Central Health
15. Betsy Coats- Maximus THSteps/STAR
16. Ann-Marie Price- Central Health
17. Kathleen Davis- Texas IEF/IAF
18. Helen Kent Davis- Texas Medical Association
19. Tara Hopkins- DentaQuest
20. Jessica Ogbeide- Central Health
21. Katharine Ligon- Center for Public Policy Priorities
22. Nancy Walker- Rep. Naishtat
23. Kathy Clark- BCBSTX/STAR + CHIP
24. Scott McAnich- San Antonio Nonprofit Council
25. Vicki Perkins- CSRCH (Christus Santa Rosa Central Health?)
26. Kit Abney- insure-a-kid
27. Rose _____ – TDA (phone)
28. Laura Guerra-Cardus- Children's Defense Fund (phone)
29. Shannon Noble- Texas Counseling Association (phone)
30. Karen Dunn- Gateway To Care (phone)
31. Lee Oliver– Texas Council of Community Centers (phone)
32. Sue Milam- NASW-TX (phone)
33. Annette Frantz- Texas Breastfeeding Coalition
34. John Berta THA