

Texas CHIP Coalition Minutes
Friday, June 16, 2006 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
May Owen Conference Room, 10th floor
Texas Medical Association

HHSC Staff: Joanne Molina

Attendees: Toby Cole Hooper, insure.a.kid; Anita McNew & Tya Arthur, Catholic Charities of Ft. Worth; Anne Wingler, Children's Defense Fund; Barbara Maxwell, Texas Association of Health Plans; Lynne Hudson, Coalition of Nurse Advanced Practitioners; Stella Rodriguez, Texas Association of Community Action Agencies; Peggy Gulledge, TAA-THSteps & STAR; Miryam Bujanda, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas; Julia Easley, Children's Medical Center of Dallas; Jodie Smith, Texans Care for Children; Carol Ermis, Texas Pediatric Society; Bryan Sperry, CHAT; Helen Kent Davis & Jen Blake, Texas Medical Association; Sonia Lara, Texas Association of Community Health Centers

Bryan Sperry called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

HHSC Update on Citizenship and Identification Requirement

Ms. Molina provided a summary of HHSC's current policy on the new DRA citizenship and identification requirements for all Medicaid recipients beginning July 1, 2006. Ms. Molina provided her update from the insert that will accompany application and redetermination packets. The English and Spanish insert was shared with the coalition listserv on June 13 along with the Texas Works Bulletin for HHSC workers, sample affidavits for adult and children and a citizenship screening document.

- No further documentation will be required from persons that are (1) receiving SSI now or in the past; (2) entitled to and/or enrolled in Medicare; or (3) a newborn to a mother who is Medicaid eligible.
- For citizenship and identity in Texas, a child will be defined as anyone under the age of 19. A birth certificate OR affidavit will suffice. However, if the child is born in Texas and HHSC finds an electronic match with vital statistics birth records, then nothing else will have to be provided for that child.
- Three documents meet BOTH the citizenship and identity requirement and include a U.S. passport, Certificate of Naturalization or a Certificate of U.S. citizenship
- If applicant has neither of the 3 documents above, then they will have to provide documents from each of the 2 lists (one for citizenship and one for identity) listed on the insert
- Proof of citizenship and identity will have to be provided from ALL new applicants BEFORE determining eligibility, (since CMS would hold federal match until proof is obtained)
- HHSC and DSHS will utilize their interface with the Bureau of Vital Statistics to access Texas birth certificates
- HHSC will accept an affidavit from 1 blood relative and 1 non-blood relative

- HHSC will NOT require original documents and will accept “clear and legible copies” of documents

You can find more information on the new policy, including the insert discussed during the meeting and other documents shared with the coalition listserv on June 13 at: <http://www.hhs.state.tx.us/medicaid/index.shtml>.

Helen Kent Davis brought up a couple of concerns with the insert regarding the probability that some families will not understand what an affidavit is and the possibility that parents may incorrectly think they have to show proof of citizenship and identity if their children are on Medicaid.

Bryan Sperry asked for a clarification on hospital records of birth and if that would be a new requirement from hospitals. Ms. Molina said hospitals will NOT be required to provide records of birth, and the policy simply allows an applicant to use a hospital record of birth if they have one to verify citizenship.

TCC Principles for the 80th Legislature

The rest of the meeting focused on suggestions and edits to the Texas CHIP Coalition principles. A new draft after comments and suggestions are reviewed will be circulated prior to the next coalition meeting.

Announcements

Anne Winger with CDF announced that the Regional Children’s Health Insurance Coalition is very interested in replicating the successful Houston event in Austin and hand-delivered letters to the Travis delegation and got very good feedback. Representative Eddie Rodriguez shared that a group of legislators are sending a letter to the Commission asking for the resignation of the IEE vendor. Senator Barrientos expressed interest in taking the lead for the event in Austin. Anne thinks the event may be held in September.

Miryam Bujanda also announced that the event for San Antonio has been scheduled for August 12th. They will hold an enrollment drive but not the townhall component. The San Antonio delegation has already sent the Commission their request for assistance with the event.

Julia Easley announced that Dallas has targeted July 29th for their event and have contacted Senator Royce West for assistance. The Senator’s office is very interested, but had not yet confirmed his participation.

The July coalition meeting has been cancelled. The next CHIP Coalition meeting will be held on **Friday, August 18**, 11am-1pm, location **TO BE DETERMINED**.

With no other agenda items, the CHIP Coalition meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.