

CHIP Coalition Meeting Minutes November 18th, 2011

Attendance: Miryam Bujanda-MHM, Laura Guerra-Cardus-CDF, Anne Dunkelberg-CPPP, Sr. JT Dwyer- Seton, Jennifer Almond, Texas Catholic Conference, Jeff Miller-Disability Rights, Julie Wright-Denton County Health Department, Shannon Noble-Texas Counseling Association, Bee Moorhead-Texas Impact and others.

OTA Meeting will start at 12:30.

Interim Charges

Because the leg is part time, during the interim, they are required prepare for the next session. We have the house charges and are still waiting for the Senate.

House Committee on Appropriations:

- Medicaid Program is included.
- Senate Bill 7 and Medicaid.

Comments: We have issues about long term care and mental health community services and supports.

House Ways and Means

Comments: You may not get everything done on the list of charges. Advocates job is to make sure and push their issues to the top of the list. The coalition needs to demonstrate enough interest on interim charges to push them. On interim charges we have previously been successful on we have written the committee's report.

- Insurance and Public Health are sharing a charge to monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- Healthcare workforce and primary healthcare workforce are included in public health.
- We will put the health related charges into the body of an email and ask coalition partners what other charges they will be following.
- A key advocate role is getting people out to testify outside of Austin.
- If we can compile a list of charges, Texas Impact should be able to track when interim hearings are occurring, especially outside Austin.
- Typically interim hearings include a series of invited testimonies. If members of the committee ask the CHIP coalition to come and present, it creates a media opportunity for us to let them know there will be content.

- The sooner we start deciding what strategies we want to use, we can plan for hearings before they occur.

Strategies for Engagement in Interim Hearings:

- While interim hearings in-district are ideal for public involvement, they are often held in Austin because it's easier for them to stream it and easier for the committee to be there.
- Rollout hasn't happened yet in the valley, HHSC has strong and weak points in terms of outreach and community education, but thought long term about working with the providers to make this transition. The notion of reaching out to the social and human service providers had not occurred.

Calls to Action:

- You probably received something about the call-in day on November 2nd. We need to continue educating our members and making sure they have the materials they need to participate..
- In September there was a My Medicaid Matters Rally in Washington and others around the country, including one here in Austin. That momentum is continuing, and is a good umbrella to rally under for both state and national Medicaid related issues.
- The next meeting is Wednesday the 31st and we will get information out to folks about those if you want to participate.
- November 2nd call to action got 317 calls from around the state. We are exploring ways to track the calls.
- We need to also continue thinking about media strategy, including op-eds AND LTES. The Dallas CHIP Coalition is doing well with this.
- Everyone on the CHIP Coalition listserv is currently getting the KidsWell emails from both the national and Texas groups. They are great emails and if you haven't read them you should read a few because they are very accessible and anyone can use the information.

The name change will probably occur in January, from KidsWell to Texas Well and Healthy.

Waiver and HJR 2:

- A lot of folks signed on to a letter asking for ongoing stakeholder involvement in waiver development.
- HHSC had a planning session on Sun/Mon with transferring hospitals to discuss planning and Anne attended at a consumer representative.
- As of Monday they had not gotten final approval from CMS. HHSC submitted the narrative and budget documents.
- Severe cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP are often repackaged but are often the same things.

Federal Budget Updates

- The Toomey proposal is worse than the Ryan budget and The Republic Study committee. It calls for balancing the budget by 2018. These are ideological debates moving further away from the center. It uses part of the funding from cuts to reduce the deficit but others to make the Bush tax cuts permanent.
- Next week the deadline approaches for the super committee, and you will receive information from CHIP or others.
- We are all inundated with action alerts all the time, and we need to make sure advocates and members know when the critical issues are really happening.

Other Updates:

- Maximus- Staff are holding events in rural Texas for client events. They are holding over 600 events- see txmedicaidevents.com.
- The most important work we can do is with legislators in district, so we will start that discussion in December. We also have 6-8 Medical-Legal partnerships around Texas that serve children, so the attorney who runs the program in El Paso is going to come present.