

Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting
Alabama Library Association
Montgomery, Alabama
January 31, 2008
10:00 – 12:00

Attendees: Bonnie Bradley – CHIP; Foundation; Al Rohling– Alabama Child Caring
Ava Rozelle – CHIP; Jamie Manning – CHIP; Marcia Teele – Alabama Medicaid;
Sharon Parker – Alabama Medicaid; Jim Carnes – Arise; Terri Reid – DHR; John
Pickens – Alabama Appleseed Center; Sonya Bumpers – M Power Ministries/Jefferson
County Coalition; Knoxye Williams – CHIP; Teela Carmack – CHIP; Connie Arnwine
– Jefferson County Department of Health; Tracie Griffin – Covering Kids State
Coalition; Debbie Robbins – CHIP; Susan Colburn – Children's Rehabilitation Services;
Ashley Peyer – CHIP; Holly Midgley – Alabama Academy of Family Physicians; Gretel
Felton – Alabama Medicaid; Kimberly Wilson – CHIP; Arthur Steckel – Cooper Green
Mercy Hospital; Angela Daniel – CHIP; Tiki Hubbard – CHIP; Yolanda Martinez –
CHIP; Kathryn Hunt – Sherry Marbury – Nurse Consultant Alabama Department of
Education; Wanda Ross Children's Rehabilitation Service; Charlotte Hardison – AMA;
Julia Sosa; Lisa Tubbs

Call to Order/Welcome:

Jim Carnes called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. He welcomed the group.

Introductions were made.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with corrections.

Reports

Executive Committee – Jim Carnes

The Executive Committee recognized Al Rohling for his contributions to the Covering Kids Coalition and to improving the well being of children in Alabama. Jim reviewed some of the highlights of ACCF and presented AL with a certificate of appreciation.

Teela reviewed some of the progress being made on the Robert Wood Johnson grant to assist CHIP and Medicaid to examine their renewal processed. There was a visit from the Southern Institute on January 23rd. CHIP and Medicaid are mapping out the renewal and enrollment process and will be sending this in. There will be a meeting in Houston in February to meet with other states. Later, both CHIP and Medicaid will be developing improvement plans. 7 states nationwide were awarded the technical assistance grant.

Jim talked about the Federal Economic Stimulus package. He noted that the bill the senate is considering will not include relief for Medicaid unlike the 2003 bill where relief was granted. The current bill extends rebates to families including seniors.

Jim reported that Arise did not receive the “Consumer Voices for Coverage” grant. However, they will know soon whether they will get a similar grant from the Public Welfare Foundation. Jim noted that Alabama Appleseed is involved in the grant as well. This would be a 3 year initiative to augment coalition efforts and build a consensus on how adult coverage rates can be improved. One of the activities to be supported by the grant would be to develop a handbook about health coverage. In addition, it is anticipated that Arise would sponsor a conference concerning health care coverage.

CKF National Network Report – Tracie Griffin

Tracie attended the first meeting of the group. The group discussed items such as a vision, mission, operating principles as well as priorities. Tracie distributed copies of Organization Operating Principles and bylaws from the National meeting. She noted that Alabama is still looked upon favorably. She further noted that there were 40 participants at the meeting with over 30 different states.

Project Reports

Renewal and Retention – Teela Carmack – In addition to the issues already discussed regarding the Technical Assistance Grant, Teela noted that CHIP has an intern who will be making calls to families who will be renewing within the next two months.

Special Populations – Ava talked about the progress that has been made on the Audible Technology project. The Medicaid assistor portion of the project is being rolled out to outstation workers in health department settings.

Good Cause Exception – Ava noted that this project is currently on hold.

Electronic Signature – Gretel noted that logistics on the electronic signature are being completed and the target date for implementation is currently April.

Adjunct Eligibility – No update was noted.

Local Projects:

Jefferson – Sonya Bumpers

A meeting was held on December 14th, 2007. At that meeting it was recommended that the Coalition talk to the new CEO of Children’s Hospital to discuss the mission of the group. Give Kids a Smile Day will be held at the UAB School of Dentistry on February 23rd, volunteers are still needed. The next meeting will be March 8th at Alagasco. At that meeting the Coalition will discuss the County’s Health Action efforts as well as Cover the Uninsured Week.

Mobile Project – Ashley Peyer

- ◆ A meeting was held on January 28th. At that time Cover the Uninsured Week activities were discussed.
- ◆ The Coalition will be partnering with the Mobile County Medical Society for a Tour Bike Race on March 16th.
- ◆ Plans are also being made to work with University of Alabama College of Medicine to provide training.

Insuring Partners

Medicaid – Gretel Felton

- ◆ SOBRA Cases – 183,626
- ◆ SOBRA Recipients – 375,397
- ◆ MLIF Cases – 20,210
- ◆ MLIF Recipients – 54,607
- ◆ Plan First – (women with no children) – 12,526
- ◆ Average Cases per worker – 1,132
- ◆ Average Recipients per worker – 2,389
- ◆ Pilot Counties – Jefferson County -- 20,733 cases, 45,069 recipients; Mobile County – 17,998 cases, 42,964 recipients.
- ◆ New Income Guidelines were distributed and will begin on February 1st.
- ◆ There were no new updates on the 2009 State Budget.
- ◆ A new claim system is set to go into effect on February 23rd.
- ◆ Plan First is up for renewal by CMS by March. A new rule states that women cannot enroll in Plan First if they have any credible insurance coverage event if it doesn't cover family planning. These new rules would take effect when the new waiver takes effect.
- ◆ Medicaid as well as other agencies are involved in the Camellia II project. This system would allow agencies to share information from clients. Medicaid will be piloting its MLIF program for the project, ADPH will be using CHIP and DHR will be piloting their Family Assistance and Food Stamp programs.

Alabama Child Caring Foundation – AL Rohling

- ◆ At the end of 2007, ACCF was able to eliminate their waiting list.
- ◆ There are currently more than 10,000 enrolled on the program.
- ◆ Efforts to provide health assessments in schools continue. In addition, the Governor's Rural Action Commission is interested in discussing this program and replicating it state wide. To this end, a 30 – 40 minute DVD is being prepared which would provide communities with a roadmap on how to organize similar health fairs in schools. A group is going to meet next week to discuss this initiative.
- ◆ The ACCF License Tag should be available in March. This is will be a good opportunity to raise funds on an annual basis.

ALL Kids – Teela Carmack

- ◆ This has been the tenth month of record enrollment for ALL Kids and we now have 70,082 children enrolled.
- ◆ We continue to maintain a 10 day turnaround on applications.
- ◆ New income guidelines should be on our website soon.
- ◆ There were several good sources mentioned that have information regarding reauthorization, one of which is Families USA @www.familiesusa.org
- ◆ SCHIP has been granted an continuation through March of 2009 operating with current regulations. We have been assured that should states suffer shortfalls, we will get additional Federal Monies. Everyone should note that ALL Kids is operating as “Business as Usual” with no policy changes.
- ◆ There was some discussion about some of the rulings that were sent in a letter from CMS in August. These new rules apparently will have to be followed, however none of these impacted Alabama’s program. This includes a 1 year wait for those losing coverage to avoid crowd-out.

Presentation – Medicaid Transformation Grant – Kim Davis Allen

- ◆ This is a 7.6 million dollar grant
- ◆ Money will be used to create an electronic medical record system that pulls together information about enrollees and to put these records in the practitioners’ hands and there-by improve outcomes. The system will be web-based and will be overlaid with clinical rules i.e. that diabetes patients need routine foot checks as well as Hemoglobin A1C.
- ◆ The system will be ready to test in late May or early June.
- ◆ The grant also encourages the interoperability between state agencies. Medicaid has been working with the Department of Senior Services. One of the efforts will be to share information and requirements between the agencies.
- ◆ A Case Management program is also being established. Two counties, Bullock and Pike will be the pilot sites and those individuals with asthma and diabetes will be targeted. Medicaid will be using Health Department Case Managers.
- ◆ All entities involved in the program will need to be HIPPA compliant. Enrollees will have the ability to opt out of the program.
- ◆ The Grant will run through March 2009 and there will be a program evaluation at the end of the grant period.

Announcements

- ◆ Yolanda Martinez has new contact information. Medicaid Waiver Office/PHA 2, c/o Madison County Health Department, P. O. Box 467, Huntsville, Al 35804
Phone numbers are: 256-532-1916 (Office) 334-546-3748 (Work Cell) 256-519-9089 (Fax) Email address is: ymartinez@adph.state.al.us
- ◆ Terri Reid spoke about the Child Support Guidelines. There are 228,000 families who have received DHR services through the Child Support Division. These Guidelines also address ensuring children receive Medical support.

- ◆ Susan Colburn distributed the most recent CRS Newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be April 24th, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Alabama Library Service.

HANDOUTS:

Minutes from the meeting

SOBRA Medicaid Report

Eligibility Requirements for Medicaid for Pregnant Women and Children(SOBRA)

Southern Institute Uninsured Children in the South Report

Quarterly Enrollment Report, AK; Medicaid, ACCF

Organizational Operating Principles and Bylaws, National Covering Kids and Families
Network