

## Coalition Coverage

October 2010

### Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on September 10. Suzanne Respass, congressional liaison for Children's Hospital, spoke to the Committee about various aspects of Health Care Reform. She noted that Alabama's clear priorities are to protect the gains in children's coverage progress we have made. The committee then discussed Alabama's provider shortage issue and ways to encourage provider recruitment in underserved areas. Alabama's prevalence of chronic conditions and the impact this will have on healthcare in the future was also discussed.

### Health Care Reform

Robert Turner and Kathleen Healey with the Department of Insurance presented on Health Care Reform called "the New World of Health Insurance: To Infinity and Beyond." Major tenants of health reform were reviewed as well as some the major aspects of reform that will be enacted over the next few months including: Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, HHS Web Portal, Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan aka (High Risk Pool), Patient Protections and Market Reforms, Premium Rate Review and Approval, Medical Loss Ratio, Consumer Appeals and Health Insurance Exchanges (HIE).

Discussion about Alabama's preparation for the 2014 deadline for the HIE followed. A Program Director is being sought and should be in place in November. Invitations will be sent to stakeholders in December with meetings to begin shortly thereafter to discuss how the exchanges will operate. It was emphasized that HIEs are not physical places, but web-sites where individuals will be able to compare various health care plans.

### CHIPRA Outreach Grant

Kat Rodman - The Alabama Primary Health Care Association (APHCA) reported a successful run of commercials related to their CHIPRA grant and have developed outreach materials that will be able to be ordered from their grant website: [www.alaaccess.com](http://www.alaaccess.com). The outreach message is...Without Access to Healthcare – Kids Can't be Kids. Audio Visual Application Assistor (AVAA) locations have been placed in FQHC's sites.

### Express Lane Eligibility

Dana Driscoll - Since the beginning of Express Lane, 37,908 children have been determined eligible. Next month Medicaid will be meeting with DHR to discuss the next phase of Express Lane Eligibility that will require system changes.

### CAKF Updated Website

Knoxie Williams/Bonnie Bradley - ALL Kids has agreed to update and maintain the Coalition's website. Knoxie showed the coalition members a draft of the updated CAKF website. As the pages were reviewed, the coalition discussed various aspects of the website. An archive of pertinent articles and presentations related to Health Care issues providing easy access for coalition members was suggested. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

### Health Disparities

Julia Sosa- National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities goals include improvements for racial and ethnic minorities and for underserved populations and communities focusing on *Awareness, Leadership, Health System and Life Experience, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, and Research and Evaluation*. Alabama has already enacted many of the initiatives.

### Kid Check

Barbara Hutchinson/Bonnie Bradley- The 2nd Annual Celebration for Kid Check was held in Birmingham. There is uncertainty about the continuation of Kid Check however; Chad Nichols has been trying to meet with both gubernatorial candidates to garner support for continuing Kid Check. Events and other information is available at [www.alabamaruralaction.com](http://www.alabamaruralaction.com).

## Insuring Partners

### SOBRA Medicaid

- Cases-233,214
- Recipients-487,638

Express Lane is being utilized throughout the state to determine the eligibility of Medicaid renewals and new applications. Self declaration of income is being used on children and on MLIF adults.

### ALL Kids

- Enrollment—75,247

Enrollment continues to increase and includes 10,000 children enrolled in the expansion group.

As of October 1st, ALL Kids became compliant with Mental Health Parity. All limitations for in-patient and out-patient services have been removed.

### ACCF

- Enrollment-About 4,200

Benefits for all recipients will end at midnight on December 31, 2010.

ACCP plans another mailing in November to enrollees reminding them of the closure and encouraging them to seek coverage with another program. Cancellation notices will be sent in mid-December.

**Next State Coalition meeting: Friday, January, 2010**

**ADPH Boardroom, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, RSA Tower  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon.**

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