

**Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting**  
**RSA Tower - CHIP Conference Room**  
**Montgomery, Alabama**  
**January 28, 2010**  
**10:00 – 12:00**

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**Attendees:** Jim Carnes, Alabama Arise; Tim King Alabama Child Caring Foundation; Wendy Dixon – Flamand, Alabama Department of Public Health – Office of Minority Health; Knoxye Williams, CHIP; Bonnie Bradley, CHIP; Gretel Felton, Alabama Medicaid; Chris Hutto, CHIP; Susan Colburn – Children's Rehabilitation Services/Family Voices; Charlotte Smith, Alabama Department of Rehab Services; Ashley Peyer, CHIP; Suzanne Respass, Children's Hospital; Viki Brant, CHIP; Ava Rozelle - ADPH; Paula Clark – CHIP; Mary Finch – Alabama Primary Health Care Association; Teela Carmack – CHIP; Gloria Boyd – CHIP; Cathy Caldwell – CHIP; Zayne Smith – Alabama Appleseed; Kat Radman – Alabama Primary Health Care Association; Dale Quinney – Alabama Rural Health Association;

***Call to Order/Welcome:***

Jim Carnes called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Introductions were made. Minutes were approved with no corrections.

***Reports***

***Executive Committee*** – Bonnie reported that the Executive Committee met in December. Part of the discussion involved the agenda for the State meeting as well as updates on standing agenda items. There was also some discussion on Express Lane Eligibility. DHR had several announcements. They have developed a new Brochure called "Putting it All Together." This is going to be distributed to every food assistance family. They also have a new program for TANF families. Businesses can be reimbursed at 100% for providing on the job training for TANF families. This program will end in September because funding came from the Stimulus bill.

***CHIPRA Grant – Mary Finch***

Mary discussed some of the initial plans they have to utilize approximately \$980,000.00 in CHIPRA outreach money. There are 2 major components. First, they will be using Community Health Centers and local providers for local community outreach. This will involve Health Fairs where enrollment will be emphasized. Also, there will be a statewide marketing campaign. The second component will be technical in nature. Kiosks will be placed in Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics as well as hospitals. The Primary Health Care Association is currently trying to determine the most appropriate placement for these kiosks. A Medicaid Assistor would be located at each site. Also, there will be an emphasis on the retention of children on program. Mary also introduced Peggy Dunlap who is the project manager. Her phone number is 334-271-7068 and her email is [peggy@alphca.com](mailto:peggy@alphca.com)

***Project Reports***

***Peak Grant (Maximizing Enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP Grant)*** – Chris Hutto/Gretel Felton– After the site visit last June, a diagnostic assessment report was prepared. A work-plan is being developed for the next 3 years. Some of the proposed activities in the work-plan include focus groups of enrollees and providers that would focus on barriers to enrollment. Also, there will be some technical upgrades including a Spanish translation of the on-line application. There will also be attempts made to enhance and improve the current on-line application. Chris also noted that some emphasis will be made to develop telephone and on-line renewal processes.

***Express Lane Eligibility*** – Gretel Felton - Gretel noted that approval was received from CMS to begin Express Lane Eligibility on October 1, 2009. The process will occur in phases. She noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> phases would require system changes.

*Phase I – On Medicaid Renewals – Workers will be able to go in on Food Stamp or TANF Screens to see if the family is on one of these programs. They will not have to verify income directly.*

*Phase II – Set to begin in March 2010 – Workers will be able to verify income on Food Stamp and TANF screens for initial applications. This process will be in place for SOBRA applicants only, not for MLIF or any program for adults.*

*Phase III – Automatic Renewal – The system will be able to automatically check whether a family is on SNAP or TANF and automatically renew applicants. This will require system changes. It is hoped that this will be available in mid 2010.*

*Phase IV – Automatic Eligibility for new applicants – When a new application is received; the system will automatically be able to determine whether they are on TANF or SNAP and determine income eligibility.*

*Phase V – Other Agency programs such as Childcare and the Free and Reduced Lunch Program could be utilized to determine eligibility.*

***Health Reform*** – Suzanne Respass – Suzanne noted that she felt that despite recent set backs, there was still the possibility that some measures of Health Care Reform could pass. She noted that there are several pathways where reform will proceed. The key measures that will remain regardless of the path would be how to get expanded coverage through Medicaid or another proposal and how to pay for it. The question of whether SCHIP goes away is back on the table. She noted that it is possible that some of the measures could be passed in a separate measure and then later, possibly after the election in November, some of the more contentious measure could be debated. She noted that by March 1<sup>st</sup> we should have a pretty good picture of what will go forward and what the timeline will be. There was also some discussion on the coalition's possible response once the bill is passed. It was suggested that it may be a good idea to make an overture to the Governor's office regarding the issue. It was noted that one of the things we want to emphasize is that in any new program the comprehensive benefit package CHIP has should be maintained. If kids are rolled into some type of exchange, the benefit package should remain robust.

***AVAA*** – Bonnie Bradley/Ashley Peyer – Kiosks are now available in Blount, Lawrence and Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Mobile County has determined that they would like to expand to more of their clinics. Eventually they would like to have Kiosks at all of their clinics. A flyer has been developed for the Bay Minette site. This flyer will be distributed as a way to let the community know that this system is available for use. The Department of Public Health continues to discuss development of Kiosks with a variety of programs loaded on them for use at Health Department locations throughout the state.

***Kid Check*** – Tim King/Bonnie – There have already been approximately 18,000 children screened during the first term this year. That is as many as all of last year. It is anticipated that another 18,000 – 20,000 students are likely to be seen during the Spring term. The events are going very well and it has been hard to keep up with the volume. As a reminder, a schedule of events is available at [www.alabamaruralaction.com](http://www.alabamaruralaction.com).

***Local Projects:***

*Jefferson* – Bonnie Bradley - The Jefferson County Coalition has a meeting scheduled for February.

*Mobile Project* – Ashley Peyer – Coalition met in January and is planning another meeting in April. At the meeting, they went over program updates. Ashley

discussed a large outreach event that involved the Festival of Hope. Over 10,000 people were provided services and a significant number of families received ALL Kids information.

### ***Insuring Partners***

***Medicaid*** – Gretel Felton– **Provided in Written Report for the period ending January 27, 2010 – numbers in parenthesis are from last meeting**

- ◆ SOBRA Cases – 215,963 (212,922)
- ◆ SOBRA Recipients – 448,677 (445,577)
- ◆ MLIF Cases – 25,202 (24,274)
- ◆ MLIF Recipients – 68,263 (65,873)
- ◆ Plan First – (women with no children) – 15,262 (15,150)
- ◆ Average Cases per worker – 1,340 (1,318)
- ◆ Average Recipients per worker – 2,871 (2,841)

Alabama was the recipient of CHIPRA Bonus money. To be able to apply, the Medicaid and CHIP programs had to meet 5 of 8 simplification requirements. Medicaid had to send in the numbers of children that had been put on the program since 2007. The amount of money received was 39.1 million. A total of 9 states got money. Alabama received the highest amount with the next highest amount going to Illinois at 9 million. She also noted that Medicaid is moving closer to self-declaration of income. Citizenship and identity matching is taking place with Social Security. Workers will no longer have to ask for written documentation.

***ALL Kids*** – Teela Carmack – Enrollment for December 72,000. Throughout our history we have now insured over 250,000 children. ALL Kids is in the process of upgrading their computer system. This will require a complete shut-down of the enrollment system for a few days. BCBS is in the process of expanding their MH network. It now has over 700 providers. CHIP is currently caught up on applications with a very short processing time. Additionally, much of the CHIPRA legislation is beginning to take effect.

***Alabama Child Caring Foundation*** – Tim King – Current enrollment is approximately 6000 and there are about 1100 on the waiting list. He also noted that ACCF is also caught up on keying applications. He mentioned that the number of Hispanic children enrolled is still increasing.

### ***Announcements***

Wendy noted that The Office of Minority Health that the Health Disparity Teleconferences are continuing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. These can be viewed through the Alabama Public Health Training Network at [www.adph.org/ALPHTN](http://www.adph.org/ALPHTN) She also noted that April is Minority Health Month.

Dale Quinney noted that the Office of Rural Health and the Rural Health Association is holding the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Rural Health Conference on March 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> in Prattville. This conference is being held to complement the fall conference that is held in Tuscaloosa. There will be multiple tracks.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting April 22, 2010 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – RSA Tower Boardroom

### **HANDOUTS:**

- Minutes of the October 22, 2009 meeting
- SOBRA Statistics
- 3 Program Enrollment Numbers