

Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting
RSA Tower – ADPH Board Room
Montgomery, Alabama
January 26th, 2012
10:00 – 12:00

Attendees: Jim Carnes, Alabama Arise; Bonnie Bradley, CHIP; Charlotte Smith, Alabama Department of Rehab Services-Early Intervention; Tim King, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama; Chris Hutto, CHIP; Charlotte Morris, MASA; Jamie Manning, CHIP; Paula Clark, CHIP; Knoxye Williams, CHIP; Viki Brant, CHIP; Teela Carmack, CHIP; Gloria Boyd, CHIP; Dolly Hambrick, Alabama Arise; Linda Lee, Alabama Pediatric Association; Dana Driscoll, Alabama Medicaid; Angela Daniel, CHIP; Diane Abernathy, CHIP; Carol Nason, Community Volunteer; Richard Fiore, Executive Director HIX; Missy Freshwater, CHIP;

Call to Order/Welcome:

Jim Carnes called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Introductions were made.

Minutes: Minutes from the October 27th were presented to the group. Any corrections should be forwarded to Bonnie.

Executive Committee Report: Jim Carnes – Jim noted that the Executive Committee had met and most of the meeting had been focused on the Agenda and how to better reflect the work being done to comply with the Affordable Care Act. Jim further noted that the Covering Kids Coalition has been the only place where agencies, providers and advocates have a forum to meet and receive a general overview of updates regarding health access and care issues.

Health Insurance Exchange: Richard Fiore – It was noted that a lot of the ground work has now been done. The State is now in a position to move forward. The Commission, appointed by the Governor, has recommended that the new HIX have a free market focus. Further, they recommended that the Exchange be set up as a “Quasi” Public Authority. There have also been some discussions about how to finance the Exchange. It has been recommended that the cost be spread over all policy holders. Richard noted that a lot of the specifics have not been decided at this point. They have been consumed with meeting all the Federal Deadlines at this point.

The next major deadline is June 29th when the Level II Establishment Grant request is due. (Note: This date has been pushed back). There will need to be some legislation in place at that time to be able to apply for these additional Federal monies. This legislation would be focused around the establishment of the Exchange as well as laws to give the Insurance Department more authority. There was discussion about the lack of knowledge by the Legislature about what the Exchange will mean. They are currently working to put together an education and outreach plan. Richard said that the HIX will be utilizing the successful outreach efforts that have helped make programs like ALL Kids so successful and looks forward to working with stakeholders.

There was additional discussion about re-engaging stakeholders as plans move forward to make some of the specific decisions related to the Exchange. Richard noted that it will be important to utilize existing resources that are available to determine what is best for Alabama. There will also be a need to educate the public about how to access the exchange. Pre-enrollment for the Exchange must begin in October of 2013 and the Medicaid expansion will begin on January 1, 2014. (Low income adults will be eligible to apply for Medicaid at that time). Richard noted they are looking toward people with a proven success with outreach. He stated there is a lot to build on in this state when the Exchange gets to that stage of development.

Eligibility/Enrollment/I: Chris Hutto stated that the annual grantee meeting for the Maximizing Enrollment grant took place in Washington D.C. in December. Health Care Reform was the main topic. He stated that the focus of Maximizing Enrollment has moved beyond children. ALL Kids is ending the 3rd of 4 years of the grant so we are moving into the last grant year. ALL Kids continues to offer telephone renewal as an option for families who are due to renew. However, there will be no heavy marketing about this option at

this time. This method of renewal is very time consuming and difficult with limited staff. ALL Kids is continuing to make progress on the updated on-line application. This new version will have a renewal component as well as a Spanish version of the on-line app and renewal. When this is ready for roll-out, there will be a need to train and educate the public about this new product. The Electronic Case Record is also working well. All paper applications that are received into the ALL Kids office are being scanned and placed into an electronic record.

It was pointed out that CHIP is facing significant financial shortfalls for the 2013 fiscal year. They do have the capability of capping enrollment in our state plan. However, due to the Maintenance of Effort regulations written into the CHIPRA legislation, ALL Kids doesn't believe they would be able to cap enrollment at this time. All options are being discussed at this time. All outreach has stopped for now. The program is looking at premium and co-pay changes, but there again are numerous limits on what families can pay out of pocket so any changes will be limited.

It was noted that Alabama did submit enrollment numbers to CMS to determine whether or not Alabama Medicaid will receive bonus money for the third consecutive year. The amount could be as much as \$19 million. There was considerable discussion on possible shortfalls in the Medicaid budget. Jim noted that at an event last week, one of the state legislators stated that they will be proposing Medicaid go to a managed care system that would potentially save almost \$150 million the first year. Linda Lee noted that the Pediatric Association is very concerned about this proposal and has developed some talking points about this. Linda noted there are several for profit companies from out of state who are making these proposals. Of concern is that provider payments may go down. Add that to increased bureaucracy and this would likely lead to providers leaving the Medicaid system. This would create an access issue for the state. Linda went on to state that the Pediatric Association is not against a managed care system and that Alabama Medicaid has already instituted similar procedures. However, there is concern that money and jobs will be sent out of state.

Access/Education: Again pre-enrollment for the Exchange will be in October 2013 with Medicaid enrollment beginning January 1, 2014. There will be a need for increased education in the community at this time. It was noted that Medicaid is in discussions about the possibility of instituting Express Lane Eligibility Determination for adults. Nothing specific has been decided at this time however. At present, Express Lane regulations only allow for eligibility to be determined for children using these additional resources.

There has been some discussion about telemedicine and how this might impact access across the state. There is the possibility that the state will try for an "innovation" grant to explore an expansion of telemedicine throughout the state.

Federal/National Perspective: Jim stated that he and other Arise staff recently attended the Families USA Conference and the focus of this event was Health Care Reform. He said that the Department of Health and Human Services is trying to get their messaging and marketing out on reform but there is still a lot of "pushback" from some groups.

There was also discussion about the High Risk Pool that the Federal Government had established. There were questions about how many people in Alabama had actually taken advantage of this program.

Partner Updates:

Alabama Arise – Dolly reported that she has been going out into the community to talk about the Affordable Care Act.

ALL Kids – Teela reported that the enrollment is now 83,865. She also reported that ALL Kids has gotten the updated Federal Poverty Limits and income limits likely will change. These will be available soon.

Sarrell Dental – Andy stated that they are continuing to expand into underserved markets. They are also trying to move away from restorative services and to preventive care.

Legislative Statement – Jim distributed a draft of the CAKF Legislative Statement for the upcoming Legislative Session. He asked members to provide feedback so that the statement could be distributed.

MASA – Charlotte announced that a new Medical School will be opening in Alabama in Dothan. The groundbreaking was last week.

APA – Linda stated that there is going to be an Alabama Physician's Opportunity Fair on February 25th. The event will see to show various opportunities for physicians throughout the state.

BCBS – Tim announced that the Foundation is looking at the topic of decreasing obesity in Alabama. They are studying different programming that is currently in use and try to support these programs.

Medicaid – Dana reported that there have been several changes in coverage for Medicaid Staff.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 26th, 2012, RSA Tower, 15th floor Board Room – 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

HANDOUTS:

- Minutes of the October 27, 2011 meeting
- 3 Program Enrollment Numbers
- Legislative Notice for 2012