

Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting
RSA Tower - CHIP Conference Room
Montgomery, Alabama
July 22, 2010
10:00 – 12:00

Attendees: Jim Carnes, Alabama Arise; Barbara Hutchinson, Alabama Child Caring Foundation; Wendy Dixon-Flamand, Alabama Department of Public Health – Office of Minority Health; Knoxye Williams, CHIP; Bonnie Bradley, CHIP; Marcia Teel, Alabama Medicaid; Chris Hutto, CHIP; Viki Brant, CHIP; Gloria Boyd – CHIP; Vaughn Branch, Alabama Appleseed; Angela Harmon, CHIP; Ashley Mahone, United Way of Central Alabama – Intern; Rachel Brazinski, United Way of Central Alabama – Intern; Dianne Wright, Alabama State Department of Human Resources; Alice Widgeon, Alabama Department of Mental Health; Claire Haynes, Business Council of Alabama; Christopher Sellers, CHIP; Fern Shinbaum, CHIP; Kim Davis-Allen, Alabama Medicaid; John Pickens, Alabama Appleseed; Susan Betsyad, Alabama Appleseed - Intern

Call to Order/Welcome:

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

Minutes: Minutes from the April 22, 2010 meeting were approved as written. If any coalition members do find a mistake, please forward to Bonnie for correction.

Reports

Executive Committee - An Executive Committee Report was not made as it was anticipated everything would be covered during the meeting.

Project Reports

AVAA – Chris Sellers reviewed a Power Point presentation that had been developed on the AVAA project. AVAA, the Audio Visual Application Assistor, was designed to simplify the application process for low literacy English speaking individuals and Spanish speaking individuals. The AVAA is compatible with the on-line application and it presently screens applications for ALL Kids, Medicaid, MLIF, Plan First and the Alabama Child Caring Program. There was a discussion of some of the important factors that went into choosing particular pilot sites. These included: Administrative Buy-In; Space for the Kiosk; Equipment capabilities including a computer and a cabinet, signage, ADPH staff coordination and Medicaid staff coordination. Signage and forms including a checklist were developed to assist applicants. Several examples were shown to the Coalition. The counties involved in the project have been Blount, Lawrence, Jefferson, Mobile, Baldwin and Talladega. There was a discussion of the results that have been seen for each project site including environmental factors that may have impacted success at each site. Both the Blount and Jefferson County sites discontinued the pilot due to low utilization. There was a discussion of factors that may have contributed to this. There was also a discussion about the future of the project including AVAA kiosks being placed in multiple FQHC's and Rural Health Centers as part of the Primary Health Care Association's CHIPRA Outreach Grant. There was also a mention that the AVAA program may be adapted for on-line use as well.

CHIPRA Reauthorization – Viki Brant – CHIP continues to work on various aspects of the CHIP Reauthorization Act. Effective October 1, 2009, CHIP was to have begun paying FQHC's on the prospective payment model. Blue Cross Blue Shield has been assisting CHIP in developing the way this will be implemented and the current date for this to begin was July 1st. Blue Cross/Blue Shield will go back and pay claims submitted earlier to accommodate for the

new rates. Mental Health Parity will go into effect on October 1st of this year. In anticipation of this change, BC/BS continues expanding their provider network. CHIP is also working with Blue Cross Blue Shield to see what aspects of the CHIP benefit package may need to be addressed to comply with Mental Health Parity legislation. There was a brief discussion as well about Quality Measures that we may report to CMS.

Health Care Reform – Viki Brant – Viki noted that a new regulation of Health Care Reform is that patients receiving Hospice Care can receive concurrent treatment. This is a change from previous, accepted Hospice care where treatment was suspended as a person enters Hospice. She noted specifics are being reviewed to address this regulation. Further, she stated there has been discussion with CMS about how CHIP may handle the new Health Reform regulation that addresses the possibility that state employees' dependents may be eligible for CHIP.

Express Lane Eligibility – Marcia Teel - Marcia noted that Medicaid outstation workers are now using Express Lane on new applications coming into their offices. She stated that self-declaration of income is being used for children and MLIF adults. Pregnant women continue to require verification of their income. Medicaid is currently meeting with different agencies to continue moving toward a paperless system. Citizenship and Identity must be verified before benefits can be awarded. (Note: Benefits can be awarded to the applicant. If Citizenship and Identify cannot be verified through a check with Social Security, applicants have 90 days to provide proof or benefits will be terminated.)

Kid Check – Barbara Hutchinson/Bonnie Bradley–Approximately 40,000 children were screened throughout the state last school year. There was further discussion about the software developed by Auburn University that seeks to help make the screening process more efficient by eliminating most of the paper forms previously utilized at events. It is hoped that this technology can be utilized in additional sites in the future. Some discussion has begun between Chad Nichols and Commissioner Steckel at Medicaid regarding some possible funding; but there are no details available yet. As a reminder, a schedule of events and other information is available at www.alabamaruralaction.com.

Insuring Partners

Medicaid – Marcia Teel– Provided in Written Report for the period ending June 30, 2010 – numbers in parenthesis are from last meeting.

- ◆ SOBRA Cases – 226,022 (219,365)
- ◆ SOBRA Recipients – 472,565 (456,962)
- ◆ MLIF Cases – 27,196 (25,841)
- ◆ MLIF Recipients – 74,078 (70,133)
- ◆ Plan First – (women with no children) – 16,097 (15,447)
- ◆ Average Cases per worker – 1,407 (1,362)
- ◆ Average Recipients per worker – 3,037 (2,928)

ALL Kids – Knoxye Williams, Viki Brant – Enrollment as of June 30 is 75,112 up from 72,963 at the end of March. Approximately 7,600 of those are in the expansion group. We will soon have the ability to order materials from a web-based form. Media is running throughout the state. We have also have had a very positive response to the billboard campaign. .

Alabama Child Caring Foundation – Barbara Hutchinson – It was announced that the Alabama Child Caring Program will be phasing out. The final date of operation will be December 31, 2010. She stated that the expansion of ALL Kids in October of 2009 as well as health care reform legislation recently passed has made the program reassess its role. A press release was distributed on June 11th but was not widely picked up by the media. There was an article in the Birmingham News as well as a report on one of the local television stations in the Birmingham area. She noted that they plan to have Town Hall Meetings to help further get the information out to enrollees. All the information that has been distributed has been in both English and Spanish. She said they are working with the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama to help contact their enrollees and distribute the information. Donations received by the Program after May 1st are being returned to the donors.

It was also noted that letters to donors explaining the end of the program were sent out on June 11th as well. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama has noted they will cover claims costs through December 31, 2010. Barbara stated that they anticipate the claims costs for children to exceed revenue; however, Blue Cross will cover the costs. Letters to enrollees went out on June 11th. ALL Kids sent out a follow-up letter to families. The letter explained the eligibility criteria for the ALL Kids program and encouraged families to apply if they believe they are eligible. Barbara said that the program will be working with families whose children are covered to make sure they secure healthcare coverage through ALL Kids or Medicaid if they are eligible. If families are ineligible for either program, they will be provided with information about various community resources that they may be able to utilize. There are currently approximately 6000 children currently on the program and another 1000 or so on the waiting list who will be impacted by the change.

Health Information Exchange – Kim Davis-Allen – Kim reviewed the project noting that it is an effort to develop a system where health information can be exchanged between providers for all Alabama citizens. She noted that currently there is limited access and that is also episodic. She noted that the plan would be to capture information from patients and provide them to the next provider who cares for the patient. This will go across insurance type as well. (There has been a similar effort that it was only applicable to those on Alabama Medicaid.) This will provide true clinical information on patients that will follow the patient as they go through the system and are treated by various providers.

Monies are available at the federal level through Health Care Reform to help develop this system. Additionally, there are monies available to use as incentives for providers to use the system. There was some discussion about various aspects of the exchange. It was noted that it is anticipated that there will be significant savings in money as the system progresses. Jim also noted that there may be some confusion as we go along due to the fact that the Health Information Exchange and the Health Insurance Exchange are both being developed and use the same acronym. For more information, coalition members can go to the Medicaid website at medicaid.alabama.gov and click on the Transformation link on the home page.

Announcements

Wendy Dixon-Flamand noted that their office continues to offer satellite conference on health disparities on the ADPH Training Network. These conferences can be attended live or can be downloaded within two to three days following a conference. The next scheduled satellite conference will be Wednesday, August 18th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. This particular session is entitled “Addressing Social and Health Disparities in the Native American Indian, Asian American/Pacific Islander and Hispanic/Latino Communities.” To access past webcasts go to the Department Training Website at www.adph.org/alphntn.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: October 28, 2010 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – RSA Tower Boardroom

HANDOUTS:

- Minutes of the April 22, 2010 meeting
- SOBRA Statistics
- 3 Program Enrollment Numbers
- Minority Health Events Newsletter July – September, 2010
- Alabama Arise Fact Sheet entitled – Critical Condition: Primary Health Care in Alabama