

Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting
RSA Tower – ADPH Board Room
Montgomery, Alabama
October 27th
10:00 – 12:00

Attendees: Jim Carnes, Alabama Arise; Bonnie Bradley, CHIP; Susan Colburn, CRS/Family Voices of Alabama; Charlotte Smith, Alabama Department of Rehab Services-Early Intervention; Tim King, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama; Chris Robinson, Alabama Primary Health Care Association; Chris Hutto, CHIP; Alice Widgeon, Alabama Department of Mental Health; Charlotte Morris, MASA; Larry Dupree, Alabama Department of Human Resources, Gretel Felton, Alabama Medicaid; Sharon Parker, Alabama Medicaid; Fern Shinbaum, CHIP; Jamie Manning, CHIP; Paula Clark, CHIP; Julia Sosa, Alabama Department of Public Health; Lynn Beshear, River Region 2020.

Call to Order/Welcome:

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

Minutes: Minutes from the July 28, 2011 meeting were approved. Any corrections should be forwarded to Bonnie.

Envision 2020 River Region Project – Lynn Beshear

There was a review from Lynn about some of the major health related goals that have been championed by the Project. There are three major areas that are being targeted. The first involves the Health Information Exchange. It was noted that all 9 million health records for the military are held at Gunter Air Force Base. The Project has created a team that involves leadership from Montgomery Baptist as well as the Alabama Primary Health Care association. It was also noted that the Baptists in the River Region will be the first to pilot for HIE and should go live early next year. This will part of the whole statewide initiative.

The second area of concern is the recruitment and retention of physicians, especially family and primary care physicians in the state. It was noted that there was one estimate that there will be perhaps as many as 36,000 new Medicaid patients in the River Region alone within the next few years. It was further pointed out that the average age of physicians in the region is 55 and the average age of RN's is 52. Lynn noted that they have a staff person coming on board who will be working with middle school age children who have interests in science and math. She further stated that their intent is to create a community where they can recruit professionals.

The final area concerns access to care for residents in particular for mental and dental health services. There was extensive discussion about the anticipated statewide increase in the Medicaid roles. There was also discussion about the ways that income eligibility will be determined in the future. CMS has apparently sent out rules. Gretel noted that the enhanced 100% match for federal funding would only go into affect for new Medicaid patients based on those who are new to Medicaid who would not have been eligible previously.

Reports

Executive Committee - Jim noted that the Executive Committee met on September 9th. Jim reported that he did try to get someone from the Department of Education to attend, but that there may be a conflict with them attending due to some standing meetings. There was also discussion that the Executive Committee may want to expand its membership. It was noted that Sonya Bumpers has not been able to attend and it would be beneficial for someone from the faith based community to attend.

Jim also noted that Arise was awarded an RWJ Grant that is a companion grant to the Health Care Assistance Grant. Jim noted they are hiring some people to administer the grant. They will be focusing on more of an advocacy component in particular where consumers are involved.

There was then extensive discussion about making Health Care Reform more of a focus of upcoming meeting, including making it a standing agenda item. Jim noted that the Executive Committee will work at developing a new agenda format for future meetings. It was noted that the Health Insurance Exchange Commission is supposed to have their recommendations to the Governor in early December. There will need to be several pieces of legislation passed in the next session pertaining to the exchange.

Project Reports

Maximizing Enrollment - Chris Hutto – Chris noted that ALL Kids continues to offer telephone renewal as an option. However, this has not been publicized broadly as of yet. CHIP is now scanning all paper applications that come into the office. There was a brief discussion of the Electronic Case Record system and how it should allow for the ability to better manage application as they come in. Chris also mentioned that the current on-line application is being revised. The new version should include a Spanish version as well as the on-line renewal option.

CHIPRA – Chris Robinson – Chris provided the group with some final numbers from their CHIPRA Grant. He stated that 42,896 applications were sent from their kiosks and with assistance from their staff. These applications were sent between September 2009 and September 2011. 12, 109 new applicants were approved and 30,237 of these applications were approved for renewal of benefits. This translates to a 98% approval rate. The Primary Health Care Association has been asked to speak at a conference in Chicago about the success of their collaborative effort. He also noted that 98 application assistants have been certified.

Insuring Partners

Medicaid – Gretel Felton– Provided in Written Report for the period ending May 31, 2011 – numbers in parenthesis are from last meeting

- ◆ SOBRA Cases – 245,058 (241,121)
- ◆ SOBRA Recipients – 512,136 (504,056)
- ◆ MLIF Cases – 30,174 (29,700)
- ◆ MLIF Recipients – 82,703 (81,196)
- ◆ Plan First – (women with no children) – 19,134 (18,519)
- ◆ Average Cases per worker – 1,529 (1,505)
- ◆ Average Recipients per worker – 3,305 (3,251)

ALL Kids –Bonnie Bradley and Chris Hutto – Enrollment as of June 30 is 82,758. Much of the increase is likely due to the enrollment of the dependents of state and education employees who are now eligible to apply. It was noted that CMS did extend the three month waiver for Public Employees to apply for AK. They will now have until December 31st to apply without the 3 month waiting period. CHIP has now completed their move to the 4th floor of the RSA Tower.

Announcements:

The Early Intervention Conference will be held from November 15th – 17th. It was noted that Family Voices will be having a Family Leadership night during the E I Conference.

Alice Widgeon stated that she will be retiring from the Department of MH.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: TBA

HANDOUTS:

- Minutes of the July 28, 2011 meeting
- SOBRA Statistics
- 3 Program Enrollment Numbers
- Medicaid Report