

Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting
RSA Tower – ADPH Board Room
Montgomery, Alabama
January 28, 2011
10:00 – 12:00

Attendees: Jim Carnes, Alabama Arise; Knoxye Williams, CHIP; Bonnie Bradley, CHIP; Alice Widgeon, Alabama Department of Mental Health; Jamie Manning, CHIP; Ashley Peyer, CHIP; Susan Colburn, CRS/Family Voices of Alabama; Abby Dorminey, Alabama Hospital Association; Charlotte Smith, Alabama Department of Rehab Services-Early Intervention; Kathleen Healey Department of Insurance; Yolanda Martinez – CHIP; Steve Lafranier – Alabama Department of Mental Health; Angela Daniel, CHIP; Terri Reid – Alabama Department of Human Resources; Chris Hutto – CHIP; Tim King – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama; Viki Brant – CHIP; Gretel Felton – Alabama Medicaid; Sharon Parker – Alabama Medicaid; Ava Rozelle – Alabama Department of Public Health, Beth Johns – United Way Success by 6

Call to Order/Welcome:

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

Minutes: Minutes from the October 28, 2010 meeting were approved as written. If any coalition members do find a mistake, please forward to Bonnie for correction.

Reports

Executive Committee - Jim noted that at the December Executive meeting we talked about recruitment for new members. Jim stated that he had done some personal outreach and had identified some new members. For example, he talked with Sherry Marbury, who is over school nurses for the State Education Department. Also, he made contacts with people in the school lunch program as well as a representative from the Insurance Department.

Further, Jim presented the group with a handout that included educational information that is intended to be presented to the legislature when they return. He noted the session starts on March 1st. There was some discussion about the document and what needed to be included. It was noted that we would send the document out to the entire coalition for further input.

Project Reports

CHIPRA Reauthorization – Viki noted that the Citizenship and Identity process has been going well. There have only been a very few terminations of enrollment due to families not verifying information.

There was also some discussion about the CHIPRA Bonus award. Alabama Medicaid was awarded approximately \$55 million dollars. Gretel noted that this year, 18 or 19 states applied for the bonus and 15 were approved. Again this year, Alabama was awarded more money by far than any other state. The amount awarded is based on the number of children enrolled in Medicaid. CMS sets baseline projections based on normal growth trends. In 2010, Medicaid had 133,000 more children enrolled than the CMS projections. Gretel also noted that the money is to be deposited to the State's General Fund budget. She stated that in order to receive the bonus both ALL Kids and Medicaid must be in compliance with five of eight simplification measures. She also noted that when outreach is done, typically Medicaid enrolls the most children.

Express Lane Eligibility – Gretel noted that over 49,000 children have now been determined eligible through Express Lane. She stated that they are now looking at system changes that need to be in place in order to move forward in the process. She noted that they will be working with DHR to develop this system. Teri noted that the DHR Board is in favor of moving forward.

Kid Check – Tim King–There was a discussion of the Kid Check efforts now that the Alabama Rural Action Commission and the Blackbelt Commission. This has been replaced with the Alabama Rural Development Council headed by Ron Sparks. It was noted that Mr. Sparks had said in an interview that Kid Check was the 1st activity he was interested in continuing. Tim noted that the health screenings are going to continue. Knoxye noted that there have been over 6600 school flyers ordered from ALL Kids for these events. It was also noted that Chad Nichols, who has been coordinating Kid Check efforts, has now joined Sight Savers.

Insuring Partners

Medicaid – Gretel Felton– **Provided in Written Report for the period ending December 30, 2010 – numbers in parenthesis are from last meeting**

- ◆ SOBRA Cases – 236,127 (233,214)
- ◆ SOBRA Recipients – 493,412 (487,638)
- ◆ MLIF Cases – 29,006 (28,582)
- ◆ MLIF Recipients – 79,343 (77,901)
- ◆ Plan First – (women with no children) – 17,907 (17,612)
- ◆ Average Cases per worker – 1,473 (1,454)
- ◆ Average Recipients per worker – 3,182 (3,142)

Gretel noted that Alabama Medicaid does have a new Commissioner, Dr. Bob Mullins. He has met with staff and has mentioned several priorities. She also discussed that they are moving forward on IT upgrades to get ready for the increase in Medicaid recipients that will come in 2014 when the eligibility requirements change. Gretel also noted that an additional service center has opened in Mobile Co. There are already service centers in Jefferson and Montgomery counties.

ALL Kids –Viki Brant – Enrollment as of December 31 is 75,246. She reminded everyone that ALL Kids became compliant with Mental Health parity. She and Chris further stated that the office continues to work hard on the Maximizing Enrollment Grant efforts. This would include more efforts on electronic records, including an electronic renewal.

Alabama Child Caring Foundation – Tim King – Tim stated that as of December 31st, the program has ended. At that time, they terminated approximately 4200 children. He did note, that the office has received fewer than expected calls from parents.

Health Care Reform –Carol Steckel, Executive Director, Health Care Reform, Department of Health and Hospitals, State of Louisiana spoke with the group. She noted that things are going well although the difficult state budgets are a primary factor in planning. She noted that it will be difficult to prepare for one of the largest expenditures of money at a time when there is proration at the state level. She noted that one of the things they are doing is developing policy panels that are going to be held around the state. These panels will get input from people around the state who are the experts on issues involving health care reform. There was some discussion from the group about how Louisiana is setting up those panels. Executive Director Steckel stated that information has been put on their website and specific invitations have been sent out to key people in the community.

She also noted that officials in Louisiana had not decided, as of the meeting, whether or not their state will run the Health Exchanges or whether they will allow the Federal Government to manage them. She did mention the significant increase that will be seen in the number of adults eligible for Medicaid. It is likely that those enrolled in Medicaid at that time will be a high need population.

There was discussion about the possibility of developing a multi-state or regional exchange. Carol stated that there would be difficulty in executing this type of exchange because it would be very complicated. She noted that insurance regulation is a function of state government and those regulations would be different between states.

Provider shortage is also a significant issue. Carol noted that there are already shortages and that providers are aging as well. Due to this and other factors, Federally Qualified Health Centers and Community Health Departments will then be even more critical to safety and treatment of the community. It was suggested that it would be beneficial if health centers begin getting health information and determine the acuity of their patients now. This would help in determining the acuity that may be seen as additional people come into the system when the Health Care Reform legislation goes into effect.

There was also a report from Kathleen Healey, the Department of Insurance. She stated that the Department sent out a Request for Proposals in November in order to have a contractor in place in March to address Health Exchange and Reform issues. The Department of Insurance is in the process of developing workgroups to discuss specifics of the implementation of reform. She stated that the next stakeholder meeting was to be in March.

Announcements

Susan noted that they are planning Family Celebration on April 4 from 6 – 8:30 and Family and Professional Workshops on April 5 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. The event will be held at the Marriott Legends at Capital Hill in Prattville. More information can be found on their website at www.familyvoicesal.org

Jim announced that they will be having a poverty and policy conference on Friday, March 4, at Auburn University, Montgomery. Topics will include a legislative panel which will preview the 2011 session. There will also be workshops on health care reform, the state budget challenge, asset-building, equal pay for equal work, congressional redistricting and other topics. The keynote address will be by Anton Gunn, the new southeastern regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Gretel noted that there has been a Federal Poverty Guideline Change and that new income limits will be coming out soon.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: May 3, 2011 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – RSA Tower Boardroom

HANDOUTS:

- Minutes of the October 28, 2010 meeting
- SOBRA Statistics
- 3 Program Enrollment Numbers
- CAKF Fact Sheet
- Family Voices Save the Date Announcement