

**Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting**  
**Alabama Library Association**  
**Montgomery, Alabama**  
**July 31, 2008**  
**10:00 – 12:00**

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***Attendees:*** Bonnie Bradley – CHIP; Barbara Hutchinson– Alabama Child Caring Foundation; Ava Rozelle – CHIP; Sharon Parker – Alabama Medicaid; Jim Carnes – Arise; John Pickens – Alabama Appleseed Center; Sonya Bumpers – M Power Ministries/Jefferson County Coalition; Knoxye Williams – CHIP; Ashley Peyer – CHIP; Gretel Felton – Alabama Medicaid; Joan Carter - AARP; Elizabeth Dick – KPI Latino; Fern Shinbaum – CHIP; Lisa Castaldo – Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives; Linda Lee – Alabama AAP; Melanie Bridgeforth – VOICES; Sharon Finklea – DHR; Diane Roberts – Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services; Shakita Jones – Alabama Appleseed; Angie James – CHIP; Dale Quinney – Alabama Rural Health Association; Mary Finch – Primary Care Association

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

Jim Carnes called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

Introductions were made.

Minutes were not available for approval. They will be made available at the next meeting.

***Reports***

***Executive Committee*** – Jim Carnes

***Updating Membership*** – Jim and Bonnie will be reviewing existing State Level Membership to determine any agencies or persons who should be invited as well as ways to increase participation.

***RWJ Grant Opportunity – Fern Shinbaum – Ava Rozelle***

There is a grant, called Maximizing Enrollment of Children in Medicaid and SCHIP available from Robert Wood Johnson. ADPH has submitted the grant proposal but this will be a joint initiative between ALL Kids and Medicaid. The proposal has been named “Perfecting Enrollment for Alabama Kids”. The grant would fund up to 8 projects with \$1 million available over 4 years. This could then be used to draw down matching federal funds. Several possible initiatives have been discussed including a move toward going “paperless”.

***Jefferson County Health Initiative – Bonnie Bradley***

Bonnie reviewed an initiative that is beginning in Jefferson County. The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Blue Print for School Readiness Health Work Group and

the Jefferson County Department of Health's Access to Care Work Group. A flyer has been developed called "Prescription for a Healthy Child" that seeks to encourage obtaining Health Coverage as well as maintaining a Medical Home, a Dental Home and having regular check-ups. The flyer will be distributed throughout the County and has the potential for use on billboards and other forms of media.

***Tenet Hospital Settlement Grant – Jim Carnes***

There had been discussion at the Executive Committee meeting that Arise might pursue a \$65,000 Grant that was part of a settlement against Tenet Hospitals. The grant would have involved hospital accountability and barriers to care. However, since this would have really involved only the Birmingham Metro area, Arise decline to apply.

***Covering Kids and Families Midwest Regional Conference – Bonnie Bradley***

Bonnie provided a brief overview of this conference that she recently attended on behalf of the coalition. The Conference primarily dealt with School Based Health Clinic issues. However, there were also sessions that involved outreach efforts to schools.

In Chicago, the school system has a Benefits Unit that assists families with making applications for Food Stamps, TANF, Medicaid or SCHIP. In Wisconsin, they are in the second year of a three year grant they call "Connecting Health Insurance to Lunch Data." This effort is very similar to the pilot project ALL Kids instituted in 2006 that sought to gather health coverage information along with the Free and Reduced Lunch program. Wisconsin has also instituted an "Express Care" program. In this initiative, applicants are given presumptive eligibility after completing an abbreviated form and given a temporary benefits card. The family has one month to complete the application or lose benefits. Many states, including Wisconsin, have taken state funds to provide expanded health care coverage for their children.

***Project Reports***

***Renewal and Retention*** – Gretel Felton – ALL Kids and Medicaid continue to work on this project which involves a technical assistance grant. Recently they had a conference call with people from Louisiana. In that state, most renewals are completed by telephone. Gretel noted that they are looking at dropping the requirement for a signature to be on renewal paperwork. She noted that Medicaid already does a rolling renewal, that is if the enrollee calls to report a change, the worker can update and renew the enrollee at the time and give them a new good through date. Medicaid is also looking at how to make sure they have correct addresses on its enrollees. There will be a meeting in Arizona in November with the other states who also are involved in this project.

***Electronic Signature*** – Gretel noted that Electronic Signatures began the weekend of July 14<sup>th</sup> with applications received beginning July 17<sup>th</sup>. To date, they have received over 500 applications with the electronic signature. She noted the biggest issue to date has been with the workers, who now have to check their email to see if they have applications submitted. She noted this has been instituted with a soft roll out and there have been few problems.

***Adjunct Eligibility*** – No update was noted.

***Gaps Profile/Coverage Grant*** – Jim Carnes

Jim announced that Shakuita Jones, who has been working with Alabama Appleseed on this project, will now be the full time field organizer for this project. Another person will be coming in on August 11. They are currently looking at strategies for updating data on the uninsured. There will be a statewide Health Coverage Conference at Birmingham Southern College on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. They are anticipating 450 participants. They are also collecting anecdotal stories about the importance of having health coverage. There was an appeal for contacts for these efforts.

***AVAA – Ava Rozelle***

There was brief discussion on the progress made on this project. The application is currently being refined and it is anticipated that the pilot will begin soon. Four Health Department Sites will participate in the initial pilot project. There is potential for wide spread use.

***Kid Check – Barbara Hutchinson***

The Alabama Rural Action Commission has adopted the Kid Check model for replication in all eight of its regions. The goal is for one school in each of the 8 regions to adopt this project. ACCF has for several years partnered with various communities, Alabama Power and various Schools of Nursing to provide health screenings to students. There was a meeting in Clanton a few weeks ago about the initiative. A tutorial video has been developed for those interested in replicating the project in their communities and schools. The video is basically a “how-to” that demonstrates how to plan and execute such an event. Health Coverage status for the children is also determined and if permission is granted a joint application will be sent out. There was discussion about how to best distribute information on this initiative and notify communities on the availability of the video.

***Local Projects:***

***Jefferson – Sonya Bumpers***

The Coalition in conjunction with Medical Students from UAB Sponsored a March and Rally that culminated in an event at the Double Tree Hotel on the Southside in Birmingham. Speakers included Dr. Tim Denton who is the Medical Director at M-Power Ministries and Dr. Sandral Hullet the CEO of Cooper Green Mercy Hospital.

Sonya also noted that the Jefferson County Coalition has suffered from a decrease in membership and solicited ideas on ways to increase participation.

There was also some brief discussion about an initiative involving the Birmingham City Schools. The City of Birmingham is providing some tax incentives to Children’s Hospital and in return, the City and the Mayor’s office want to make sure that all children

in the Birmingham City School System are insured. A form to gather insurance status information has been developed and distributed to each school. During registration, families will be asked to complete the form. These will be collected and if a child in the family is not insured, they will receive a coded joint application packet. Results will be closely monitored.

#### **Mobile Project – Ashley Peyer**

- Coalition met June 16, 2008 and is currently making plans for Back-to- School initiatives. The coalition will be supporting and attending local events in Mobile County.
  - 8/7 USA College of Medicine Club Share. ALL Kids staff to provide exhibit on Alabama's Healthcare Coverage Programs. This will be a great networking opportunity with first year medical students.
  - 8/16 Coalition will participate in Mobile Baybears "Kids Night" at Hank Aaron Stadium. There will be an exhibit on Alabama's Healthcare Coverage Programs and material will be included in the Baybears backpack give-away (500 bags will be distributed).
- The coalition is currently exploring outreach possibilities and interest of partnership with USA College of Medicine. Made contact with Brandon Kirkland, State Chair with MASA. There have been discussions and plans for a local outreach project in Mobile some time in the fall of 2008 and this project will involve ALL Kids staff and coalition...more to come.

#### ***Insuring Partners***

##### **Medicaid – Gretel Felton**

- ◆ SOBRA Cases – 193,963
- ◆ SOBRA Recipients – 399,459
- ◆ MLIF Cases – 21,434
- ◆ MLIF Recipients – 58,094
- ◆ Plan First – (women with no children) – 13,595
- ◆ Average Cases per worker – 1,197
- ◆ Average Recipients per worker – 2,542

There was some discussion about the QI 1 funding that has been restored. Gretel noted that this pays the Medicare Part B premium for Medicaid recipients. Although funding was restored, they did not receive the amount of money they were hoping for and therefore they are not accepting any new applications for this program until they can determine what their FY 2009 allotment will be.

The Plan First waiver is up for renewal on October First.

##### **ALL Kids – Knoxye Williams**

Current enrollment for ALL Kids is 71,251. This is down 24 children from last month and breaks the string of 15 months of record enrollment. However, it was noted that in May a record number of applications were distributed.

It was also noted that Back to School efforts are underway in all counties and regional staff have been very busy with health fairs and community events.

**Alabama Child Caring Foundation – Barbara Hutchinson**

- ◆ .The approximate enrollment is 9500 with about 1600 on the waiting list.
- ◆ Overall this has been a good year for fundraising for the foundation. To this end, the Specialty Tag continues to sell. Also, the foundation was able to collect \$21,000 from the Regions Classic initiative called “Birdies for Charities.”

***Presentation – Mary Finch – JD, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, Alabama Primary Health Care Association.***

Mary reviewed the “Smart Card Project.” Beginning October 1, 2008 50,000 patients will receive their smart card called “My Health Link” in pilot sites including Jackson, Jefferson, Macon and the surrounding counties. This card provides the patient with a portable electronic health record. The types of information included on the card could be demographic, medical history, drug history, hospitalizations, lab results and other diagnostic tests. It can be updated at each doctor visit and can be security protected with finger print or picture. It is anticipated that the cost will be much less expensive.

There was discussion about how this project will collaborate with the “Partners Together for Quality Project” that is being instituted in Medicaid. It is anticipated that the smart card will be able to interface immediately with the Medicaid project and roll-out at the same time. This will insure that a comprehensive record is created.

Advantaged to the card were noted. This could reduce unnecessary labs, fraud and help alleviate inaccuracies because the card provides more complete and accurate medical information. Patient safety is also likely to improve. In addition, patient updates could easily be made.

**Announcements**

The annual Rural Health Conference will be held September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Elizabeth Dick from KPI Latino distributed an informational flyer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be October 9, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Alabama Library Service.

**HANDOUTS:**

Three program enrollment chart

Mobile County Project Report  
KPI Latino Informational Flyer  
Best Practices Report