

Covering Alabama's Kids and Families Statewide Coalition Meeting
RSA Tower - CHIP Conference Room
Montgomery, Alabama
October 28, 2010
10:00 – 12:00

Attendees: Jim Carnes, Alabama Arise; Barbara Hutchinson, Alabama Child Caring Foundation; Julia Sosa, Alabama Department of Public Health – Office of Minority Health; Knoxye Williams, CHIP; Bonnie Bradley, CHIP; Chris Hutto, CHIP; Viki Brant, CHIP; Vaughn Branch, Alabama Appleseed; Alice Widgeon, Alabama Department of Mental Health; Fern Shinbaum, CHIP; Dana Driscoll – Alabama Medicaid, Linda Lee, Alabama Pediatric Association; Jamie Manning, CHIP; Ashley Peyer, CHIP; Kat Rodman, Alabama Primary Healthcare Association; Dawn Ellis, ADPH – Family Health Services; Mike O'Malley, AAHP; Jeff Arrington, Alabama Association of Family Practitioners; Susan Colbern, CRS/Family Voices of Alabama; Abby Dorminey, Alabama Hospital Association; Charlotte Morris, MASA; Charlotte Smith, Alabama Department of Rehab Services-Early Intervention; Robert Turner, Department of Insurance; Kathleen Healey Department of Insurance

Call to Order/Welcome:

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

Minutes: Minutes from the July 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 meeting was held on September 10. Suzanne Respass, of Children's Hospital was invited to attend and spoke to the Committee about various aspects of Health Care Reform. She noted that Alabama has some clear priorities in regards to making the best case we can to protect the gains in children's coverage progress we have made. Also, the Provider Shortage issue came up and the Committee talked about encouraging providers to relocate. It was also discussed that Alabama's prevalence of chronic conditions will impact healthcare in the future.

Project Reports

CHIPRA Reauthorization – Kat Rodman. Kat reported that the Primary HC Association had a successful run of commercials related to their CHIPRA grant. She also noted they have developed a package of outreach materials that will be able to be ordered from their website – www.alaaccess.com The outreach message is...Without Access to Healthcare – Kids Can't be Kids. AVAA locations have been placed in FQHC's sites. There are plans to move this to other locations in the future.

Express Lane Eligibility – Dana Driscoll – Dana noted that since the beginning of Express Lane, 37,908 children have been determined eligible. She also noted that next month Medicaid will be meeting with DHR to discuss the next phase of Express Lane Eligibility. This will require system changes.

Kid Check – Barbara Hutchinson/Bonnie Bradley–On September 2nd, the 2nd Annual Celebration for Kid Check was held in Birmingham. There was discussion about the uncertainty of the

continuation of Kid Check with the new state administration. Barbara noted that Chad Nichols has been trying to meet with both gubernatorial candidates to garner support for continuing Kid Check. As a reminder, a schedule of events and other information is available at www.alabamaruralaction.com.

Insuring Partners

Medicaid – Dana Driscoll– **Provided in Written Report for the period ending September 30, 2010 – numbers in parenthesis are from last meeting**

- ◆ SOBRA Cases – 233,214 (226,022)
- ◆ SOBRA Recipients – 487,638 (472,565)
- ◆ MLIF Cases – 28,582 (27,196)
- ◆ MLIF Recipients – 77,901 (74,078)
- ◆ Plan First – (women with no children) – 17,612 (16,097)
- ◆ Average Cases per worker – 1,454 (1,407)
- ◆ Average Recipients per worker – 3,142 (3,037)

ALL Kids –Viki Brant – Enrollment as of September 30 is 75,247 which is the seventh month of record enrollment for the program. Approximately 10,000 of those are in the expansion group. As of October 1st, ALL Kids became compliant with Mental Health Parity. All limitations for in-pt and out-pt services have been removed. Because of this, the ALL Kids plus program that was utilized by Mental Health Center to provide services not included in the regular BC/BS benefits (in home visits etc..) has ended and these benefits have been included in basic benefits. ALL Kids plus will continue on the Children's Rehabilitation Services side. ALL Kids has continued this year with their relationship with a number of the colleges in the area. This does not just cover football events, but also covers other sports at the colleges. They are also going to be having some new ads coming out soon. ALL Kids was recently invited to attend clinics with coaches from various sports through the Alabama High School Athletic Association. There was a question about how the Focus Groups have gone. The Focus Groups are a part of the PEAK/Maximizing enrollment grant. UAB School of Business is conducting Focus Groups on behalf of ALL Kids and Medicaid. Two sessions have been held already with two more being held in the Montgomery area for Medicaid recipients who have had a lapse in coverage.

Alabama Child Caring Foundation – Barbara Hutchinson – Barbara reminded everyone that ACCP will end on December 31st for all recipients. She noted there are 4200 children currently on the program with approximately 1700 of those having a social security number. She noted that ACCP is planning to do another mail out in November to remind enrollees that the program will be ending and that they should seek coverage with another program. A cancellation notice will be sent out in mid December. ACCP is hoping to get children onto the appropriate program, but they do anticipate some calls after January 1st.

Health Disparities – Julia Sosa

Julia made the coalition aware of the National Partnership for Action to end Health Disparities. Many of the initiatives have already been enacted here in Alabama. The Goals include: **Awareness** – Increase awareness of the significance of health disparities, their impact on the nation, and the actions necessary to improve health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority populations. **Leadership** – Strengthen and broaden leadership for addressing health disparities at all levels. **Health System and Life Experience** – Improve health and healthcare outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities and for underserved populations and communities. **Cultural and**

Linguistic Competency – Improve cultural and linguistic competency. **Research and Evaluation** – Improve coordination and utilization of research and evaluation outcomes.

Health Care Reform – Robert Turner and Kathleen Healey – Department of Insurance – Robert and Kathleen provided the coalition with a presentation on Health Care Reform called “the New World of Health Insurance: To Infinity and Beyond.” They reviewed some of the major tenants of health reform in greater detail. Some of the major aspects of reform that will be enacted over the next few months include: Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, HHS Web Portal, Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan aka (High Risk Pool), Patient Protections and Market Reforms, Premium Rate Review and Approval, Medical Loss Ratio, Consumer Appeals and Health Insurance Exchanges. There was a good deal of discussion about what the state will need to do in preparation for the 2014 deadline for the Health Insurance Exchange. Robert and Kathleen noted that a Program Director is being sought and should be in place in November. Also, invitations will be sent to stakeholders in December with meetings to begin shortly after that to discuss how the exchanges will operate in the state. It was emphasized that the exchanges are not a physical place, but rather will be a web-site where individuals will be able to compare various health care plans. Robert will email the power point presentation so that it can be distributed to the entire coalition.

Update CAKF Website – Knoxye Williams and Bonnie Bradley – Bonnie noted that several years ago, a website was created to house CAKF activities. However, it has not been updated for some time. Knoxye showed the coalition members a draft of the updated CAKF website pages. The pages were reviewed and the coalition was able to discuss various aspects of the pages. It was noted that perhaps the site could include an archive of pertinent articles related to Health Care issues so there would be easy access for coalition members.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: January 28, 2011 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – RSA Tower Boardroom

HANDOUTS:

- Minutes of the July 22, 2010 meeting
- SOBRA Statistics
- 3 Program Enrollment Numbers
- Power Point Presentation from the Alabama Department of Insurance
- National Partnership for Action – Changing Outcomes: Achieving Health Equity