

CHIP Coalition Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2012, TMA

- Present: Anne Dunkelberg (CPPP, co-chair), Marcus Denton (CPPP), Miryam Bujanda (MHM), Sonia Lara (TACHC), Shelby Tracy (TACHC), Betsy Coats (Maximus Star/TX Health Steps), Lauren Dimitry (Texans Care for Children, co-chair), Bee Moorhead (Texas Impact), Clayton Travis (TCFC), David Escame (Amerigroup), Ann-Marie Price (Central Health), Sr. JT Dwyer (Seton Healthcare Family), Morgan Sanders (co-chair, March of Dimes), John Berta (Texas Hospital Association).

By phone: Helen Kent Davis (Texas Medical Association), Kathy Eckstein (Children's Hospital Association of Texas), Jeff Miller (Disability Rights Texas), Laura Guerra-Cardus (Children's Defense Fund of Texas), Annette Frantz (Texas Breastfeeding Coalition)

- Update on the Healthy Texas Babies Initiative by Alison McCool of DSHS
 - Goal: Reduce preterm births by 8%
 - Projected savings of \$7.2 million in Medicaid funds by reducing late-term births.
 - Handouts (see previous email)
- Report-back from August 1 Joint Senate ACA hearing
 - Interesting discussion. Much better balance than similar hearing 2 years ago. Tone different. Less ideological. Mostly providers and advocates, mostly Medicare expansion, some on exchanges. Members at the dais not predisposed to be hostile. Question by Sen. Deuell to Bee Moorhead: who is responsible for providing health care, govt or church? Observers suggest he is not really supporting church taking over Medicaid. Can see on Legetv.org (first clip).
 - But Senators advanced a theme of "Medicaid is broken program, can't expand it until it's fixed." Commr. Suehs' 3 issues: FMAP needs poverty factor, Medicaid needs copays, need same Medicaid/CHIP benefits. (Suehs did not clarify whether he was proposing the same benefits for seniors and Texans with disabilities, or suggesting long term and community based services and supports should be eliminated from Medicaid.) Also Suehs appeared to question the applicability of the federal Medicaid-CHIP MOE laws requirements, despite US HHS guidance.
 - Repeated question: should Texas be "supporting able-bodied adults?" MOD emphasizing working people are often under/uninsured. Example: [this article](#) (from Miryam).
 - Coalition members discussed need to counter the anti-Medicaid reasoning, and not wait until Medicaid is perfect before expanding it.
 - Perry press release yesterday; criticism of Medicaid. Need to separate out broad-based/overall criticisms from various particular criticisms of the program that can be addressed specifically.
 - Discussion: John Hawkins' testimony for THA- how can we get uninsured Texans covered, with or without Medicaid expansion. Why not take expansion money and put into subsidies?
 - Much depends on Nov. election. We could face either a block grant or conditions favorable for an ACA Medicaid expansion. Discussion: while some Texas rhetoric calls for some kind of waiver before Texas leadership contemplates Medicaid expansion, current administration unlikely to approve any waiver that undermines Medicaid care or minimum expansion standards under ACA.

- Need to keep messaging on improving the program, and going for expansion.
 - Dan Patrick asked about what to tell constituents who want ACA goodies today, even though he's opposing it.
 - There was some discussion of consumer assistance. Tough questions for Commr. Kitzman (Texas Department of Insurance).
- Next steps/updates on the 2013 legislative principles (and possibly assign the first draft of the Medicaid factoid sheet to accompany them and get working group to review first draft)
 - Should we move ahead and let big provider groups sign on later if they choose to?

Discussion: should we rally behind Treat Texas Fairly. I.e. if we're going to start over with a block grant or whatnot, start from scratch and share revenue fairly. Updates on member organizations' positions on Texas' Medicaid expansion: no major developments
 - Discuss desire for updates re: federal budget debate's and ACA's implications on CHIP/Medicaid
 - Yes, people would like this. Anne will work on it. Anne's ideas for workshops/discussions:
 - ACA and affordability
 - ACA and Medicaid model (including MAGI)
 - Ryan budget Medicaid block grant
 - Re: eligibility modernization- we've made good progress on it, but not much on the new rules requirements. Open-source software being developed nationally for this.
 - Response from HHSC on Kathy/Helen/Anne's questions re: HHSC's Medicaid expansion projections: meeting set to walk through answers; will report back to group
 - **Save the date:** Legislative staff briefing date reservation: Thursday, January 24, 2013 (legislative conference room: 10:30-12:30 tentative, reserved for 9-1)