

Texas CHIP Coalition
November 16, 2012, 11AM
Center for Public Policy Priorities, Paulos Conference Room

1. Introductions (see below for attendees)

2. Election

- At the state level, a shift in the House from 102R-48D in 82nd Session to 95R-55D in upcoming 83rd. Not enough for a Republican supermajority.
- 43 new House members. Three lost after the 81st session and are back. Senate has fewer new faces. Will be a very conservative Senate.

3. TCC Legislative Agenda/Principles

- Developing Introductory one-pager for Legislators and staff
- Medicaid Expansion discussion: Where do Coalition partners stand and how close are we to reaching a decision?
 - Texas Association of Community Health Clinics and Texas Hospital Association are onboard. THA also says they are in favor of all roads to access and would like to be at the table for discussions on “flexibility”.
 - Family doctors and pediatricians not decided yet.
 - Helen- TMA divided. Surveyed membership, about 50-50. If Medicaid were simplified, rates addressed, and OAG issues addressed, more would go along. TMA Medicaid congress giving feedback to HHSC on administrative simplification and coding issues. TMA decision on expansion by January probably.
 - Helen cont.- Primary care will get rate increase for 2 years. GPs, pediatricians and general internists and some affiliated subspecialists. Subspecialists giving most pushback on expansion and Medicaid. Administrative issues too. Big priority to increase reimbursement. Legislature cut dual eligible reimbursement, cut essentially copays on Medicare Part B. TMA wants those fees restored. Also talking about increasing reimbursement rates. For example, OB-GYN increases not included in the ACA primary care increase, so HHSC looking at that. But not looking at subspecialists. So that deters PCPs because they can’t find subspecialists to refer patients to.
 - Kathy Eckstein- Children’s Hospital Association of Texas- it’s possible we won’t sign on if TCC had the expansion as a priority. Other issues such as hospital reimbursement are more pressing. Main benefit of expansion is for adults. CHAT could be influenced by TMA or other groups. Other issues of concern: cost based to DRG reimbursement (?), and Disproportionate Share Hospital funds are not totally accessible (DSH is funded from IGTs, but it’s more beneficial for local governments who have the IGTs to direct their money for the 1115 waiver’s match rather than DSH’s match, making DSH funding less accessible. Hospitals are looking for other sources of funding to draw down funds.) Working with leadership to resolve those issues, so it’s harder to get out in front on the expansion.
 - Health plans- we need to follow up with them
 - Shannon Noble- not sure clients have a position. TX Counseling Assoc. and Texas Psychological Assoc. Small percentage serve Medicaid clients. So many hoops and such low reimbursement. So the few that do take it would probably like expansion.
- If no consensus, where does that leave TCC?

- Anne- not sure what our top priority is. Children's Hospitals are a special case because they're not particularly affected. Cover Texas Now coalition is made of consumer/public interest advocacy groups, and they're pro-expansion. Perhaps possible to create a link between CTN and with care providers without disrupting TCC. Or go ahead and sign on with those providers who are ready to sign on. Could add language regarding benefits to kids of parents being insured and the fiscal benefits of expansion, but with vaguer language and less of an explicit endorsement.
- Mimi- with CTN's existence, does not think we need providers on as long as internally we're on the same page. She does not want to push out providers on entire CHIP Coalition agenda due to the expansion. Kit agrees.
- Anne- Is next step adding language?
- Laura- It would be powerful to mention Medicaid expansion. Things could fall in line in a few weeks. May need more time.
- AD- are there priorities among the \$2 billion Medicaid restoration? Add a statement about deeper cuts to outpatient docs and some promising developments for PCPs, but need adequate access to providers. "Inappropriate ER use" cut. If it turns out child didn't have real emergency, get reimbursement cut 40%. THA working on fiscal impact of those things.
 - Sr. JT- Need something specific about admin. burdens and reimbursement. Need to make clear the reimbursement issue.
 - Clayton- it's already included.

4. Bills filed so far

- SJR8 Sen. Ellis amend TX Constitution to include Medicaid Exchange
- SB84 Sen. Ellis bill to establish state Health Insurance Exchange
- HB59 Burnam- counties and cities can expand Medicaid if state fails to take it up
- SB11 Nelson- requiring drug screening for TANF
- SB85 Ellis- rate hikes over 10%, plus more. ACA conforming legislation.
- SB56 Nelson- unaccompanied children in Medicaid leads to fraud. (?)
- Another Nelson bill on fraud included info on the Medical Transportation Program. CHAT concerned about assistance being available for travel.
- Nelson mental health bill- integrating mental health under capitation.
- Bill that brings SSI kids into Medicaid Managed Care SB 57. CHAT working on this with HHSC. Being pitched as access to quality care.
- Anne- lots of issues around managed care.
- A NICU bill, clarifying levels of care. Also maternal levels of care. To prevent overselling these services.
- A lot of these are about framing the conversation
- We need to talk about how to communicate about bills during session.

5. Upcoming events:

- Dec. 12th and 13th- La Fe conf on Latino HC in TX
- 1/22-1/23- TCFC 101 bootcamp- Medicaid, the Expansion, and ACA
- TCC- 1/24 CHIP Coalition Legislative briefing
 - Need planning partners, people to volunteer to plan and help pull this off. Conf call: Miriam, Kathy, LGC, Clayton.
- 2/6- TCFC Children's Policy Conference
- 3/5- Medicaid Rally and Advocacy Day

- Many will advocate for Medicaid, both the current program and expansion. Each group responsible for their own people. Texans Together, TOP, CDF, Texas Impact, Disability Rights groups, Equal Voices Network, Social Workers, others.
- Does TCC want to be part of this? No objections voiced. Laura GC is contact.
- 4/10- Texas Forward Advocacy Day
- 5/1- Follow up health care access advocacy day
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6. Upcoming TCC Meetings

- Dates: Will try for TMA and THA. 3/15 would be on spring break. Move to 3/22? No objections. 11am-2pm reservation.
- Other group will be meeting during Session: Mental health, 11am Friday mornings. Texas Forward, noon every Friday. CTN for 9:30 or 10.

Attendees:

Marcus Denton, CPPP
 Anne Dunkelberg, CPPP
 RexAnn Shotwell, TACHC
 Sonia Lara, TACHC
 Sr. JT Dwyer, Seton
 Clayton Travis, Texans Care for Children
 Mimi Garcia, Engage Texas, TWAH
 Courtney Watson, CDF-TX
 Laura Guerra-Cardus, CDF-TX
 Shannon Noble, Tuggey Fernandez, LLP
 Kathy Eckstein, CHAT
 Kathleen Davis, IAF
 Claudia Lindenberg, Central Health
 Becky Huerta, Central Health
 Kit Abney Spelce, insure-a-kid
 Miryam Bujanda, Methodist Healthcare Ministries

Via teleconference:

Caroline DeVaughn, Children's Defense Fund- Houston
 Melody Chatelle, United Way
 Robin Chandler, Disability Rights
 Blake Hutson, Consumers Union
 Annette Frantz, Texas Breastfeeding Coalition
 Helen Davis, Texas Medical Association
 Betsy Coats, Maximus
 Dianne Rhodes, Texas Dental Assoc