

Attending: Anne, Dunkelberg CPPP; Aerin Toussaint, Texas Impact; Laura Guerra-Cardus, CDF; Danielle Bennett, TDA; Kevin Denmark, Maximus; Lauren Dimitry, Texans Care for Children; Morgan Sanders, MOD; Sr. JT Dwyer, Seton FOH; Ann-Marie Price, Amerigroup; Allison Scott, Amerigroup; Sandra Martinez, MHM; Tierra Thomas, Central Health; Kathy Eckstein, CHAT; Kit Abney Spelce, Insure a Kid; Emily Shelton, Texas Impact; Stacey Pogue, CPPP.

Budget Updates:

-We still have not reached budget agreement. There are also a number of fiscal matters bills that need to pass in order for that budget to work.

Article II:

- The issue documents were circulated by email to a lot of people, but if you didn't get them Anne will be happy to share them with anyone who wants them.
- They went with what we understood to be the Senate's rate reductions. On the acute care (HHSC) side, physicians, dentists and orthodontists take no cuts. General hospitals will take an additional 8% rate cut but children's hospitals are not subject to that cut for inpatient care.
- Any provider not specifically in this list could be included in "other providers" (Mental health, case management) etc. will receive a 5% rate cut. (That is HHSC's understanding for now.) FREW attorneys indicate this could be a problem.
- Durable Medical Equipment, etc. are still at 10.5% cut. There was a proposal to do special contracting for durable medical equipment. Small businesses are anxious about this. DME people said they would rather take a big cut than do selective contracting.
- Lab Services- that includes Texas Health Steps- has a 10.5% rate cut.
- Children's Hospitals UPL deleted in decision document, but an additional rider include \$5 million from appropriated Medicaid funds to provide the state match for Childrne's UPL. Hospitals eligible must seek private UPL first.
- **Question Regarding 4.8 billion Medicaid Gap-** This will be addressed in beginning of 2013 session. Anne has put out a lot of information on this during session.
 - They introduced the budget with only limited operationalized Medicaid cuts. House floor discussion was that the intent is there to keep paying the bills. It's ok if we underfund the appropriation as long as we keep paying the bills. We are pretty sure they will make it to February or March. The gap will need a large (i.e., \$4.8 billion) supplemental appropriation next session for the actual gap. The budget is also based on very speculative savings proposals- including things that will limit access, etc. Many of these things may not yield the assumed savings- will they turn into cuts or will they be covered through a supplemental appropriation?
 - See CPPP analysis: <http://cppp.org/research.php?aid=1109> for details.

Other Associated Bills:

SB 23- Donna Howard rider on Nurses. May be limited to Medicaid- expanding scope of practice.

Women's Health Program: Not 100% certain if it is dead or not. Under federal Medicaid you don't have to pass a law to have a waiver, but the agency and the Governors office are involved.

Rep. Landtroop Bill: Headline said any Medicaid provider that provides abortions or abortion related services would not be funded.

SB 8- arguments were largely between providers and health plans. Nelson's office did not include consumer perspectives, but consumer groups do not oppose the bill.

HB 5 and HB13 (Inter-State Compact; Medicaid waiver)- both still technically viable- Senate fate is unknown.

SB 156 (Huffman)- Made it through the Senate, Susan King put a bad amendment in the house. It would allow the HHSC registries to link with hospitals- research about discharge information would be more complete. King amendment would allow ambulatory surgical centers an out.

HB 1983- Passed the Senate. Filed to reduce reimbursements to reduce pre-term inductions and c-sections. Ended up with DSHS creating evidenced-based, etc.

Laura Guerra-Cardus Updates:

Atlantic Philanthropies and the Packard Foundation have invested in Texas children's health coverage work.

Most recently, Atlantic Philanthropies is funding Children's Health Work in a number of states and has launched a national project they call KidsWell, which you will be hearing more about.

- CDF Documents: "Business leaders support child health" and "What Cuts Mean"
- Outreach and Tech Assistance Meeting: Renewed CHIP/Medicaid App had some problems and after a good meeting with HHSC they agreed to incorporate feedback.
- Matt Glazer-Progress Texas Institute: Thinking about what kind of frames and values can be incorporated into our issues.

Anne will send an email with all of these links as well as the budget documents they promised.

Session Debrief: How can we capitalize on our growing size and the strengths of all groups participating in the CHIP coalition? This was the first session where we had many issues where we were not sure what was appropriate to send to the coalition?

- Do we need to have a formal communication about relevant legislation that we might all not be on the same page on?
- We also need other organizations to continue participating in chairing the meetings during the interim- both advocacy and provider groups.

Federal Updates:

There is a lot of strong pushback to Rep. Ryan's budget proposal. (It would have made deep cuts to Medicaid, decimated Medicare)

Everyone needs to understand that the global spending caps currently being proposed stand to do as much or worse cuts as the Ryan budget proposal.

- Hard cap on growth in federal funding (% allowable)

To comply with those kinds of caps you would probably need to make cuts deeper than the Ryan budget.

The US house passed a bill to repeal Medicaid and CHIP Maintenance of Effort requirements that did not make it through the Senate. In the stand off over the debt ceiling, all of these things become negotiable.

- Health Care Advocates are going to need a legitimate way to talk about how we can do debt control and deficit reduction and not massively hack away at safety net programs.
- Mainstream economists agree that we have to both reduce spending and raise revenue to deal with US debt and deficits..

Other Comments

TDI Sunset: Projected to die again. {*NOTE: May have revived after this meeting!*} Property/casualty side advocates were very unhappy with TDI sunset. Legislation has been passed to continue OPIC.

There are also federal proposals to block grant food stamps.

Discussion around what information is relevant to CHIP Coalition and how we will move forward with these decisions as a group.