

NATIONAL NEWS

KAISER COMMISSION ON MEDICAID, SCHIP AND THE IMPACTS ON STATE ECONOMIES

Medicaid is the nation's largest major public health benefit for those who are low income including low income children and Medicare beneficiaries. As state policymakers, elected officials and legislators deal with budget shortfalls, many states look to Medicaid and SCHIP for savings. The Kaiser Commission reports that cutting Medicaid not only adversely impacts the beneficiaries and providers, but also has an impact on the economy of a state.

Key Study Findings:

Medicaid spending generates economic activity, including jobs, income and state tax revenue, at the state level

- Medicaid is the second largest line item in state budgets
- Medicaid is the largest source of federal funds for states
- Federal matching dollars support jobs and generate income within the health care system and throughout other parts of the economy

The economic impact of Medicaid spending varies state to state

- Medicaid spending has a positive impact on state economies
- The magnitude of the impact is dependent on state Medicaid spending, a state's matching rate (FMAP) and the economic multipliers
- States and state regions/counties that rely more on public services and the health care industry may be disproportionately affected

Reductions in state and federal Medicaid leads to declines in economic activity at the state level

- Reductions in state spending automatically reduce the infusion of federal dollars to a state.
- Decreases in funding reduce the flow of dollars to hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, and pharmacies, and reduce the amount of money circulating through the economy of a state, affecting employment, income, state tax revenue and economic output.

The length of this economic crisis in our nation and states, pending legislation and federal regulations, and the availability of federal relief will play a major role in how Medicaid programs and the individuals served are impacted by this downturn as well as the economy of states.

For more information go to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured issue paper and policy brief April 2008 and April 2004.

This newsletter is made possible through funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For more information about the National Covering Kids and Families Network, please visit www.chc-ing.org/ckfNat.cfm.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE NETWORK

Please welcome our newest member:

- Voices for Georgia's Children www.georgiavoices.org



NCKF Annual Meeting ~ Realizing Our Vision Together
January 27 and 28, 2009
Renaissance Mayflower Hotel,
1127 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC

Don't Forget to Register! Deadline January 9, 2009

We encourage you to participate in this pivotal event to smooth the progress of our work together to advance the Network's vision. The Annual Meeting is an organizational event intended to be interactive and participatory. The Meeting will provide an opportunity to share perspectives for network actions and to engage with others conducting similar work. **For more information, please contact Catherine Sepulveda at Community Health Councils ~ catherine@chc-inc.org or 323-295-9372. Registration information can also be found at www.chc-inc.org/ckfNat.cfm**

Families USA Health Action Conference

January 29–31. For more information visit: <http://www.familiesusa.org/>

Early registration for Families USA ends December 19th!

National Teleconference ~ December 15th!

Advocacy 101: Strategies for Effective Educational Visits with Policymakers

Time: 12:30 - 2:00pm (Pacific), 2:30 - 4:00pm (Central), 3:30 – 5:00 pm (ET)

RSVP: Please email Michelle Wood if you plan to join the teleconference: michelle@chc-inc.org. Call-in information will only be provided to those who RSVP.

Presenters: Families USA and the National Covering Kids and Families Network (Speakers TBA)

The call will address:

- The Do's and the Don'ts of Advocacy
- The Visit Check-List (How to schedule a policymaker visit, what to expect, key tips, etc.)
- Hearing From the Pro's ~ Families USA Staff and NCKF Members
- Key Messaging, January Hill Visit Logistics and Next Steps

WHAT'S UP WITH THE NETWORK (CON'T)

Request for Information

Missouri has recently began taking Presumptive Eligibility applications at Missouri Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) following a change in legislation in May of this year. Lane DePrima Jacobs, NCKF Member and Program Manager with Missouri Primary Care Associate reports that the uptake has been quite low and they are getting a bit of pushback from the FQHCs. As a result, Lane is interested in learning from other states that have a successful PE program. If you have any information and/or resources you might be able to share with Missouri, please contact:

Lane DePrima Jacobs, MPA, Program Manager
MO Primary Care Association
Phone 573/636-2236 ext 232
ljacobs@mo-pca.org

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: LOUISIANA & MAINE



Louisiana Covering Kids & Families One of Louisiana's outreach practices is packing plastic LACHIP bags with applications, flyers and trinkets and distributing to Headstart and pre-K centers. They also use "take-one" holders when making door-to-door (business) contacts. Another outreach practices is always wearing some type of LaCHIP apparel (usually shirts) as a form of advertisement. For more information, contact: Cynthia Walls, *LaCHIP/Healthcare Coordinator*, *Louisiana Covering Kids & Families*, Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge at cynthia_walls06@yahoo.com

Maine Primary Care Association The Maine Primary Care Association developed elementary and middle/high school MaineCare Medicaid posters to post directly into the schools before the kids returned to school. The posters were targeted to parents and they sent three poster to every school principal in Maine with suggestions on where to post them. The principals sent them to the nurses and as a result the Maine Primary Care Association received multiple requests to come and give trainings on MaineCare. This effort also helped with doing the citizenship and identity documentation outreach for Medicaid. It brought into the fold all the people who have direct contact with kids and were in a position to help get the kids documented. Another benefit was the regular flow of messages from the nurses if they had a question about MaineCare and helping with enrollment. The posters were so popular all of their health centers asked for them to put up in all patient rooms for this year's back-to-school and community health center week. For more information, contact: Edwina Ducker, Outreach Coordinator, Maine Primary Care Association at educker@mepca.org



SIGN UP TODAY!

Advocacy/Policy : For those who want to get involved in advocacy activities around SCHIP and Medicaid rule changes, this is the committee to join! Contact Diane Ragbeer of the Children's Trust in Florida at diana@thechildrenstrust.org.

Communications: If you have creative talent and would like to write articles for the monthly newsletter, we are looking for writers and readers. Contact Nancy Whitman, Nevada CKF, at nwhitman@healthinsight.org

Education: Conference planners and educators, join this committee! If you have a knack for planning educational teleconferences, contact David Roos of CKF Indiana at droos@ckfindiana.org or Anne Joseph of Covering Kentucky Kids and Families at an-joseph@earthlink.net.

Membership: This committee is moving and shaking and increasing our membership. If you like talking to people, here is your chance. Contact Barbara Luksch with Hawaii Covering Kids at coverkids@aol.com.



Did You Know ?

A one percent rise in the nation's unemployment rate is projected to lead to \$1.1 million additional uninsured and 1 million new Medicaid enrollees (600,000 children and 400,000 adults). This will increase state expenditures in Medicaid spending by \$1.4 billion while tax revenues fall by 3 to 4 percent according to the

Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured , April 2008

RESOURCES

Families USA has a great calculator that shows increases/decreases in Medicaid state spending what the change would be in business activity, jobs and salaries and wages. Log onto: <http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/medicaid/other/medicaid-calculator>

Tom Daschle (former South Dakota Senator) is President-elect Barack Obama's choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). To learn more about Daschle's views on the reasons the American health care system is broken and his own plan for a health care overhaul, see his book published this year, "Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis".

Credits: Nancy Whitman, Nevada Covering Kids and Families; Caroline Rivas, Community Health Councils/California CKF. Edited by: Janice Taylor, Community Health Councils.