

NATIONAL NEWS

MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT

In late April, the House of Representatives passed by a veto-proof margin (349-62) the bipartisan bill "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act" (H.R. 5613). This is a major victory for those who provide services to Medicaid consumers as well as for those who receive those services. Medicaid directors and governors nationwide supported the passage of the Medicaid Safety Net Act. The next step will be for the Senate to take action.

The actions taken to reach out to Congressional representatives, governors and Medicaid directors by network members and other organizations nationwide ensures that the voice of the underserved is heard. We must continue to educate our communities to guarantee federal support for the Medicaid program.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE NETWORK



Membership: The National CKF Network now has representation by 34 states and 77 organizations. Welcome to new members: America's Promise in D.C., Children's Defense Fund in Minnesota and Texas, and Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network in New York.

Want to help recruit new members? If you know organizations and contacts for potential membership in states not yet in the NCKF Network, please contact Barbara Luksch at

coverkids@aol.com. States currently not represented are Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, N. Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, N. Dakota, Rhode Island, S. Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont and West Virginia.

Advocacy Actions: The Policy Committee will be posting next steps on the August 17th CMS Directive and Medicaid Directives and how members can take action on the Yahoo Group .

Please be sure to check it out!

WHAT'S UP WITH THE NETWORK (CONTINUED)

Leadership Committee: The Leadership Committee will meet for the second time May 28th and 29th to review last year's strategic plan and look ahead to the NCKF Network's future. We hope all members had an opportunity to review our operating principles and have a better idea on how to get involved, member expectations, how the network can provide support, resources, advocacy assistance and networking opportunities throughout the year.

Regional Convenings. The Education Committee hosted an informational teleconference in April regarding the four regional convenings that we will kick off this summer. We received interest and inquiries from multiple network members. The committee will review the interest forms after the May 5th deadline.

National Teleconference: The Education Committee will convene the next National Teleconference to focus on coverage efforts in tough fiscal and policy environments and how we move forward. In addition to national speakers, the committee will ask network members to share their state perspectives and policy outlooks.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY & YOUTH COUNSELING AGENCY OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Family & Youth Counseling Agency of Southwest Louisiana is a non-profit, United Way and community supported agency that provides individual and family counseling services, business and industry support, and children's advocacy. Family & Youth has made great strides in demystifying the idea that LaCHIP is a program that is not for everyone by engaging in outreach to both professionals and families in their communities. Through their collaboration with other organizations in the Children & Families Action Network (CFAN), Family & Youth is able to connect with many families in Southwest LA, thus giving more children the chance to enroll in LaCHIP. Community events, such as the annual Family Festival, increase these opportunities to connect with families. Members of CFAN come together at the Family Festival to provide information about their agencies to more than 1,000 families each year. Children are entertained with hands-on activities while parents are educated about how to obtain the assistance they may need. This year there will be a greater focus on health-related information with representatives from LaCHIP in attendance.

Julio Galan, Executive Director of FYCA; David Duplechian, Associate Executive Director of FYCA; and Susan Poston, Program Coordinator for CFAN recommend this type of collaboration to other organizations that are looking for ways to enroll more children. Their experience has been that these collaborations are cost-effective, create stronger connections in the community, and create momentum in breaking down barriers to enrolling kids. For more information about Family & Youth Counseling Agency, please visit their website at www.fyca.org.

Want to be a Member Spotlight? *If you are looking for an opportunity to recognize one of your staff, or to highlight a solution or resource for Network members, please forward your information by the third Thursday of the month to: Amy Ellrod: aellrod@nhhealthykids.com*



"We can do more than belong, we can participate."

Maya Angelou

COMMITTEES

Advocacy: Meets the first Friday of the month. For more information on joining this committee, contact Diana Ragbeer with The Children's Trust in Florida diana@thechildrenstrust.org.

Communications: Meets the third Wednesday of the month. For more information on joining this committee, contact Nancy Whitman with Nevada Covering Kids and Families at nwhitman@healthinsight.org.

Education: Meets the third Monday of the month. For more information on joining this committee, contact Michelle Wood with Community Health Councils in California at michelle@chc-inc.org.

Membership: Meets the third Tuesday of the month. For more information on joining this committee, contact Barbara Luksch with Hawai'i Covering Kids at coverkids@aol.com.

RESOURCES

Talk to Other Members! The network has a Yahoo Group for communications. We encourage all of you to join the site to facilitate cross communication among members. You will also find resources and calls to action on network priority issues posted on this site. The Yahoo Group link is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nationalckfnetwork>. If you have not joined, contact Catherine Sepulveda, Community Health Councils, at catherine@chc-inc.org.

Access To Health Care Network: The first medical discount plan in the United States with a shared responsibility model for health care access. For more information see their website at: www.accesstohealthcarenetwork.org

Health Leadership Council: Initiative on Health Care Access with pilot projects in selected states. To access the website for more information see www.hlc.org.

Out of Touch: A Status Report on the Impact of CMS's August 17th Directive on Children's Health Care Coverage: Details the impact of the 8/17 CMS directive on states. The report includes state level data and recent developments. Attached please find an executive summary and a template for a press release around the report if you want to do your own press around the release. To view the report, visit: www.ccf.georgetown.edu

Health IN the Economy: View the third essay in the series by the Kaiser Family Foundation, "Pulling It Together" from Drew Altman, President and CEO. It looks at the implications of the economy rising and healthcare falling as political issues. To view the essay: http://www.kff.org/pullingittogether/healthineconomy_altman.cfm

Credits: Nancy Whitman, Nevada Covering Kids and Families; Amy Ellrod, New Hampshire Healthy Kids; Diana Cook, Wyoming Department of Health/SCHIP; Caroline Rivas, Community Health Councils/California CKF. Edited by: Janice Taylor, Community Health Councils.