Welcoming a New Era of Coverage for Children and Families

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Executive Director
Annual Conference
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Right Turn

‘It’s not just a Web site’

...or top song
The Affordable Care Act comes in with better-than-expected numbers

Obama hails 8 million enrollees for insurance under federal health-care law

Obamacare Fails to Fail
March 27, 2014 2:20 PM
103 Comments

Obamacare Success

Enrollments Exceed Obama’s Target for Health Care Act

Healthcare.gov Finished Strong Despite Rocky Start, Enrollment Data Show

It’s Working Despite Misinformation

A Plain and Simple Success
The Affordable Care Act: The World of "Perfect Imperfections"
3 KEY CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR CHILD HEALTH ADVOCATES
#1 Protecting and improving our sources of public coverage—Medicaid/CHIP

- Medicaid cuts may be on the minds of the new Congress
- Extending CHIP funding which expires on 9/30/15
Medicaid Expansion Raises Special Challenges

- Medicaid expansion waivers pose new challenges for program restructuring – and these may affect the unique features of Medicaid for kids
- Parent coverage offers new opportunities
The Path to “No Wrong Door”
#2 Reducing red tape and streamlining eligibility

- It’s been a bumpy road to “no wrong door” – we need to regain our footing and continue to work on these issues
- May take longer than we thought but round 2 of open enrollment is right around the corner
- Mixed status and immigrant families in particular have experienced major problems
#3 Improving marketplace coverage for kids

- Over time this may become a more important source of coverage for kids;
- EHB standards may drive other coverage standards;
- Pediatric essential health benefits have not met expectations;
  - Fed govt will be giving this another look next year so time to start working on this is now
What will happen to the number of uninsured children?

It’s a more complicated question for kids...

- Urban/CCF report forthcoming
- CMS Medicaid monthly reports a work in progress – hoping for age breaks in the next few months
- FFM kids enrollment is 7% or 355,616 kids
- How big will the welcome mat effect be??
  - Arkansas has enrolled 25,000 kids as a result of parent expansion
What’s the Congressional Outlook?
Losing Our Champions
Uninsured Rates for Children and Adults from 1984-2012

Medicaid

- Likely will be on the table in any budget agreement
- House Budget Chair Ryan would like to block grant
- Important to be aware of threats to Medicaid going into CHIP debate
CHIP funding expires 9/30/15

- More on this throughout the conference...
- Program doesn't need to be reauthorized but needs more money...
- Context is different from last time due to ACA
- Character of CHIP is changing – many kids have moved to Medicaid – CHIP is a financing source for these states
Why not put CHIP kids in the exchange?

- This might have some advantages in a better world but for now not a viable solution
  - Family glitch will result in 500k-2M kids becoming uninsured
  - Coverage is not as good for kids in the exchange – it is more costly and benefits are likely worse
- Letting parents choose is an option we must consider – risky for Medicaid though
WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CCF
Forthcoming Publications from CCF

- Project with Urban on assessing how kids are faring under health reform
- Annual ACS report for October/November release – with more capacity to respond to your requests for state specific data
- Joint paper with NCLR on Latino Children
  - Spanish language media outreach will be part of this project
New Project on Medicaid expansion

- CCF working collaboratively with Community Catalyst and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to provide policy and communications assistance to state partners
- Funding available for targeted states – two rounds of funding – to win expansion and impact waiver development
- Adam Searing has joined CCF staff to focus on this
Other New Staff at CCF

- Sophia Duong – State Health Policy Analyst for Kidswell and Finish Line projects
- Alisa Chester – Research Associate
- Sarah Koslov – Executive and Communications Assistant
- Coming soon – Research Fellow Sean Miskell who will be working jointly with CHIR
Since we last met, more than 242,000 visitors to our blog and website.

Blog with most direct tweets was about mixed-status immigrant families—200 total!

Over the last year, 62 guest posts have been featured on Say Aihhh!
Tweet at us!
@GeorgetownCCF
@JoanAlker1
@TriciaBrooksCCF
@AdamSearing
@Ewburak
@SonyaSchwartz
Joan cultivates a fan following!

@JoanAlker1
ED of the Georgetown Center for Children and Families
Washington, DC
ccf.georgetown.edu

Meant to tweet this in May. Arkansas #Medicaid expansion has led to 25k uninsured kids get covered! That’s huge! wp.me/p2TgAF-4u8
The numbers speak for themselves...

- Since last year, Joan’s twitter experienced a 1,233.3% increase in followers, going from 30 to 370 people!

- Since 2013, Harry Styles has only seen a 144.14% increase in twitter followers, slowly climbing from 14.5 million followers to a modest 20.9 million.
Conclusion

- First annual CCF Bulldog award for our state partners