

# National Covering Kids & Families Network

## News & Updates

March 2008

## Announcements

### National Tele-Conference - SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

12:00p.m. - 1:30p.m. (Pacific Daylight Savings Time)

We will be hosting a conference call for members on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) August 17, 2007 Directive impacting state's ability to cover uninsured children. A more detailed agenda and information about the call will be forthcoming soon.

### Conferences/Events

Cover the Uninsured Week: April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, visit <http://covertheuninsured.org/>.

## Committee Activities

**Advocacy/Policy Committee:** In January 2008, the NCKF network adopted as one of its priority issues the CMS Directives and Regulations. Specifically, the NCKF network expressed desire to address the 8/17/07 Directive targeting the SCHIP program. The committee developed "talking" points (see attached) regarding the August 17, 2007 CMS Directive for network members to utilize as a resource and educational tool to inform state/local coalitions and policy-makers in your state. The Advocacy/Policy Committee meets monthly. For more information on joining this committee, please contact Diana Ragbeer with The Children's Trust in Florida at [diana@thechildrenstrust.org](mailto:diana@thechildrenstrust.org).

**Communications Committee:** The committee works closely with all other Network committees to provide communications support. The committee has assisted with messaging Network activities, including the August 17, 2007 CMS Directive and is developing a monthly newsletter. Committee members are also

working on ensuring the completion of the Network Analysis survey by members in order to compile membership assets and resources. The committee meets the third Wednesday of every month at 12:00 p.m. (Pacific). For more information on joining this committee, please contact Nancy Whitman with Nevada Covering Kids and Families at [nwhitman@healthinsight.org](mailto:nwhitman@healthinsight.org)

**Education Committee:** The committee has developed the agenda for the national tele-conference for members on the August 17, 2007 CMS Directive. The committee will also be working on launching the regional meetings for members. For more information on joining this committee, please contact Michelle Wood with Community Health Councils in California at [michelle@chc-inc.org](mailto:michelle@chc-inc.org).

**Membership Committee:** The committee continues to outreach to states and organizations not represented in the network. There are currently 31 states; 73 organizations; and 134 individuals who belong to the network. The committee meets the third Tuesday of every month at 12:00p.m. (Pacific). For more information on joining this committee, please contact Barbara Luksch with Hawai'i Covering Kids at [coverkids@aol.com](mailto:coverkids@aol.com).

## *Member Spotlights*

**Iowa Covering Kids & Families:** The project is exploring for comparison purposes on average how much do other states SCHIP programs spend on outreach per year and if states have implemented large scale, statewide media campaigns, and average amount spent on these activities. If you have state information you would like to share with Iowa, please contact Lindsay Miller, CKF Project Coordinator at [lmiller@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:lmiller@idph.state.ia.us).

**How to be a member spotlight?** Look for information in the April newsletter on how to have your state/program highlighted. The intent of this section is to provide a space to share issues, tools and/or exciting practices occurring in network member states. We will highlight up to three states/programs per month.

## *Resources*

**Talk to Other Members!** The network has a Yahoo Group for member communications. We encourage all of you to join the site to facilitate cross-communication among members and share information. 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

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For more information about the NCKF Network, please visit [www.chc-ing.org/ckfNat.cfm](http://www.chc-ing.org/ckfNat.cfm) or contact Community Health Councils, Caroline Rivas at [caroline@chc-inc.org](mailto:caroline@chc-inc.org) or 323.295.9372, ext 235.*

have not joined and would like to, please contact Catherine Sepulveda with Community Health Councils, California at [catherine@chc-inc.org](mailto:catherine@chc-inc.org).

**The National Children's Study:** The largest long-term study of children's health and development ever to be conducted in the United States. The study will examine child health issues, including: birth defects and other pregnancy-related problems; injuries; asthma; obesity and diabetes; and behavior, learning and mental health. To learn more please visit [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov).

**Center for Children and Families:** Reports on "Moving Backward: Status Report of Aug. 17, 2007, Directive" and "CCF Analyses SCHIP Provisions in Administration's Budget". To view reports, please visit [www.CCFGEORGETOWN.ORG](http://www.CCFGEORGETOWN.ORG).

**Families USA:** Report on "9 Million Children and Counting: The Administration's Attack on Health Coverage for America's Children" examines how the President's two vetoes of CHIP reauthorization legislation, combined with the August 2007 CMS directive, will jeopardize health care for thousands of children. And the President's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget would hurt children's coverage even more. <http://familiesusa.org/issues/medicaid/>.

**Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured:** Issue paper on "Overview and Impact of new regulations on Medicaid" <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/index.cfm>.

**National Academy for State Health Policy:** New grid in the Covering All Kids, All the Time page. The grid provides an updated snap shot of how states aiming to cover all kids are trying to achieve that goal. The site includes new links to more than a dozen states' proposals or enacted legislation. Go to the Coverage Initiative Details on States Aiming for All Kids item of the [Covering All Kids](#) page.