

The Pediatric Challenge

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Faculty

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The Federal Challenges

- PPACA
- Retain the dependent coverage benefits
- Retain the Medicaid reimbursement provisions for pediatric services
- Budget Control Act
- Retain protection for Medicaid from sequestration

Challenges

- FY 2013 House Budget and Appropriations
- Ensure Medicaid block grants are equitable for states who have not expanded their programs

Challenges

- Ensure child health, and particularly children with special health care needs, are protected and will have access to age appropriate/specialty providers and services
- Ensure physician training and medical research is adequately funded

Regulatory Challenges

- Volume of rules being issued
 - Are they contradictory creating lack of clarity to implement?
 - Do they reduce access?
 - Do they eliminate inefficiency?
 - Do they recognize new costs or replace existing costs for services/patient care?

Questions to Pursue

- Is the benefit package enough for special needs and chronic disease management and treatment?
 - Does it create underinsured scenario?
 - More out of pocket expenses?
- Experimental drugs or therapies covered?

Questions to Pursue

- More managed cost than care?
- Limited provider networks?
- Does it allow for provider collaboration and a disease management continuum of care?

Alabama's Challenges

- Health exchange work non-existent
- Any ramp-up of health exchange will be in a very short time frame
 - Must be aggressive for pediatric coverages
 - Utilize AllKids as floor benefit package/benchmark

Alabama's Challenges

- State legislature involvement and viewpoint
- Parents and families need to communicate with local legislators and business communities
- Managed care for SSI/special needs populations

Medicaid Challenges

- Changing leadership
- Financial stability and budgeting
- Legislature
- Provider relationships
- CMS relationship

Legislature and Medicaid

- View as a black hole
- A component of government paycheck and impeding "urgency" for some to find employments

Legislature and Medicaid

- **Trust managed care companies to save the state between \$100-300 million annually**
 - \$1 billion with federal money
 - **By reducing expenditures of SSI and special needs populations**

Conflicting Pressures

- **Aging senior population**
 - **More dual eligibles**
- **Shrinking tax base**
- **Demand/pressure on infrastructure**
- **Aging facilities prevent adequate investment in technology**
- **Economics**

Conflicting Pressures

- **Employers no longer provide coverage**
- **Employees cannot afford**

Communicate to Legislators

- **You are a working, productive, tax generating parent of a special needs child**

Communicate to Legislators

- **The services provided by Medicaid providers, Children’s Rehabilitation Service, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education, Mental Health or any other state entity, have contributed to your child’s well-being and productivity and are available few other places**

Communicate

- **To employers and business community**
- **You are employed and one of their employees**
- **Medicaid helps keep costs of employer coverage down**
- **Part of state’s health insurance fabric**

Challenges

- **Ask businesses if any of their low wage earning employees (pregnant) or employee's children are Medicaid recipients**
 - **Most of them have not done the research**
- **Ask them to communicate with their pro-business State House or Senate member**