

**Family Planning Evaluators
Conference Call**
February 13, 2006, 1.00-2.00 pm EST

Participants

Evaluators: Janet Bronstein, Dave Murday, Jeff Roth, Mario Ariet, Kim Dauner (SC)
State Staff: Lorie Williams
Sheps Center Staff: Priscilla Guild,
Guest: No one

Not on the Call

Evaluators: Paul Buescher, Lynne Cossman, Nancy Ross
State Staff: Bonnie Cox, Joe Holliday, Bernie Operario, Janet Sheridan, Cindy Thames,
Sheps Center Staff: Ellen Shanahan

Dave started the call by introducing us to Kim Dauner, a person on his staff who will be taking on a more major role related to the SC evaluation.

Jeff then asked if Adam Sonfield from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) had called Pris about participating on the call. He hadn't, so Jeff filled us in on why Adam is interested in this group. Adam and Jennifer Frost at AGI are working on some sort of a national evaluation or description of what is happening with the Medicaid Family Planning Waivers and was interested in participating in some way with our group. Once Pris talks to him she will get back with everyone as to his participation but initially there was no objection to this.

On the grid, item 13 (Budget Neutrality) continued as the topic for this conference call. Dave Murday and Janet Bronstein put together a document that highlighted the issues that should be addressed which was sent to the group prior to the conference call. The initial document was prepared by Dave, with Janet adding her comments using "track changes." A copy is attached. The main area where Janet and Dave do not agree is where the bias comes in. The four variables to be measured were expected births, observed births, maternal costs, and infant costs. The discussion during this call centered around "expected births."

The following three ways to measure expected births were discussed:

- Pre-waiver births to women who meet SOBRA [Family Planning Waiver (FPW)] eligibility criteria,
- Pre-waiver births to women on regular Medicaid who are receiving family planning (FP) services, and
- Contemporary births to women on regular Medicaid who are receiving FP services.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the first method gave the best number to compare FPW participants with in the evaluation, since SOBRA women are the target population for the waiver. There are a number of methodological issues that were identified in the document that need to be addressed but the group felt that we needed input from demographers. Pris will call Paul Buescher to see if he would have time to join us on the next call. Lynn Cossman may also be able to bring us demographic expertise.

The following two basic questions need to be addressed:

- What is the best way to get an estimate of the population of women eligible for SOBRA in the pre-waiver baseline year(s) (the denominator for the first method)?
- How could the estimated baseline fertility rate (pre-waiver SOBRA births / pre-waiver SOBRA eligible women) be corrected to account for secular trends in fertility rates over time and to calculate "expected" births in a given demonstration year? Could we use general trends in fertility rates, or does it need to be more specific to the segment of the population served by the waivers?

On the March call we hope to conclude our discussion of this item on the grid. Besides the issues identified on this call, we should try to decide on a common target population (i.e., participant, enrollee, or all women who meet the FPW eligibility criteria).

Next Call(s): The next three calls have been scheduled for:

March 13th,
April 10th, and
May 8th

from 1 until 2 PM EST. The phone number for all the calls will be 919-962-2740.