

## **Family Planning Medicaid Waiver Evaluators Conference Call**

February 12, 2007, 1.00-2.00 pm EST

### **Participants**

**Evaluators:** Mario Ariet (FL), Janet Bronstein (AL), Molly Carpenter (VA), Kim Dauner (SC), Kathy Langlois (MS), Debeshi Maitra (SC), Dave Murday (SC), Jeff Roth (FL), Ila Sarkar (MS),  
**State Staff:** Danni Atkins (FL), Sondra Burns (LA), Catherine McGrath (FL), Bernie Operario (NC), Marcia Swartz (NC), Tri Tran (LA),  
**Sheps Center Staff:** Priscilla Guild, Ellen Shanahan  
**Others:** Adam Sonfield (Guttmacher), Paul Youket (CMSO)

### **Not on the Call**

**Evaluators:** Paul Buescher (NC), Holly Felix (AR), Mike Resnick (FL)  
**State Staff:** Emily Anderson (KY), Bonnie Cox (GA), Joe Holliday (NC), Karen Jackson (FL), Marie Melton (FL), Helen Sancho (FL), Bill Sappenfield (FL), Joan Sartin (TN), Janet Sheridan (SC), Robyn Slate (NC), Cindy Thames (MS), Lorie Williams (NC), and Angie Yow (NC)  
**Sheps Center Staff:** No one  
**Others:** Nancy Dieter (CMSO), Kathleen Farrell (CMSO), Melissa Romaine (CMSO), Meredith Robertson (CMSO),

The new evaluators for the Mississippi Medicaid Family Planning Waiver, Ila Sarkar and Kathy Langlois, joined the call for the first time. They are statisticians with Louisiana Health Care Review (LHCR), the parent company of HealthSystems of Mississippi. We welcome them to the group and look forward to having their participation on the calls.

Sondra Burns and Tri Tran have also joined the call. They are both with the Louisiana Department of Health.

Most of the discussion centered on scheduling the topics for the next six conference calls. The following topics were suggested on the January call.

- How are states measuring primary care referrals?
- How are states that have men as a target population measuring their outcomes?
- How has the new citizenship requirement affected the population eligible for publicly funded family planning services?
- How does the provision of STD services affect the budget neutrality calculations?
- Revisit the birth-spacing issue to determine if additional studies are needed to prove its positive effect.
- Look into evaluating the various outreach efforts in the states to determine which are the most effective.
- How do measures of intendedness of pregnancy affect the evaluation?

After the call Pris circulated a form to let the evaluators and state staff from Region IV rank these topics as to interest and to volunteer to lead them. Janet Bronstein, Kim Dauner, Dave Murday, and Bernie Operario responded.

The only two topics that came out clearly were the highest ranked [Look into evaluating the various outreach efforts in the states to determine which are the most effective. (ranks 1-3)] and the lowest ranked [How has the new citizenship requirement affected the population eligible for publicly funded family planning services? (ranks 5-7)]. It was agreed that outreach would be the first topic for discussion and Janet Bronstein, with help from Dave Murday, agreed to lead this discussion for the March 12<sup>th</sup> conference call. Adam would also like to work with them on using the Guttmacher estimates to rough out penetration rates.

Although not initially on the list of topic, Bernie Operario has been discussing with Pris ways in which North Carolina might be able to contract the Guttmacher Institute and Stanley Henshaw to modify his

estimates of the population in-need of publicly funded family planning services to include women up to age 55. Prior to the call Janet Bronstein did some estimates for how this change would impact the calculations for the percent of the target population served. Pris will send these to the new participants on the call. There was general interest in this topic. Because of its relationship to outreach efforts and provided Jennifer Frost at the Guttmacher Institute is be available, this will be the topic for the April 9<sup>th</sup> conference call, with Bernie Operario and Marcia Swartz taking the lead. Since Melissa Romaine and Meredith Robertson were on the call when Bernie presented his approach to estimating the target population, Paul will check to see if they would like to join us for the April call.

The rest of the topics received mixed ranks and scored in the middle of the pack. There was discussion about what was meant by “Revisit the birth-spacing issue to determine if additional studies are needed to prove its positive effect.” Adam Sonfield said he thought he had suggested this topic and what he really was trying to get at was “Revisit birth-spacing as an outcome measure for Medicaid family planning waivers.” With this clarification it was decided that this would be the next topic for discussion and Kim Dauner volunteered to take the lead. If Kim agrees, this will be the topic of the May 14<sup>th</sup> call.

The remaining topics were chosen to be covered in the following order: 3) How do measures of intendedness of pregnancy affect the evaluation? (Dave Murday will take the lead with help from Janet Bronstein on June 11<sup>th</sup>); 4) How are states measuring primary care referrals? (Jeff Roth will take the lead on July 9<sup>th</sup>); and 5) How does the provision of STD services affect the budget neutrality calculations? (Kim Dauner will take the lead on August 13<sup>th</sup>). Since the dates were not actually discussed on the call, some may need to change due to scheduling conflicts.

As it turns out, North Carolina is the only state in Region IV who is serving males so this topic will be considered later along with the new citizenship requirement.

**Next Call:** March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 until 2 PM EST. The call-in number for all the calls will be (919) 962-2740.