

Family Planning Medicaid Waiver Evaluators Conference Call
September 11, 2006, 1.00-2.00 pm EDT

Participants

Evaluators: Janet Bronstein (AL), Mario Ariet (FL), Molly Carpenter (VA), Kim Dauner (SC), Jeff Roth (FL)
State Staff: Sherry Lange (FL), Susan McNamara (FL), Bernie Operario (NC), Helen Sancho (FL), Lorie Williams (NC), Betsy Wood (FL)
Sheps Center Staff: Priscilla Guild, Ellen Shanahan
Others: Melissa Romaine (CMS), Adam Sonfield (AGI)

Not on the Call

Evaluators: Paul Buescher (NC), Lynne Cossman (MS), Dave Murday (SC), Mike Resnick (FL)
State Staff: Bonnie Cox (GA), Joe Holliday (NC), Janet Sheridan (SC), Robyn Slate (NC), Cindy Thames (MS), Angie Yow (NC)
Sheps Center Staff: No one
Others: Nancy Dieter (CMS), Kathleen Farrell (CMS), Holly Felix (AR), Dave Mlawski (CMS), Meredith Robertson (CMS)

The majority of the meeting centered around discussion of the material from Romaine on the draft Model Budget Neutrality Worksheets and a set of draft instructions to the states on how to use these that Priscilla sent to conference call participants after the last meeting. The main difference from what states may have been doing in the past is that the new sheets are to reflect the cost for the entire Medicaid program and not just the family planning waiver demonstration. When these are used in some states it is difficult to see the effect of the waiver if it is just a small part of the Medicaid expenses. Large changes in the TANF population can wipe out the effects of the waiver. In order to correct for this, CMS has drafted the following of instructions:

To construct the “without demonstration” deliveries, the state will need its annual estimates of births averted due to the demonstration (see demonstration Special Terms and Conditions formula, $BA = (\text{base year fertility rate}) - (\text{fertility rate of demonstration participants during DY}) \times (\text{number of demonstration participants during DY})$). For each year for which the state has the estimated births averted figure, the state will add the annual estimate of births averted to the “with demonstration” deliveries to arrive at a “without demonstration” deliveries estimate. Then, the state will use an annualized growth trend for these “without demonstration” deliveries to project forward for the renewal period. This annualized growth trend is similar in approach to the annualized MCPI trend. Please use the worksheet in the spreadsheet to calculate this annualized growth trend for “without demonstration” deliveries.

Participants on the call thought these instructions were reasonable. Adam also suggested that births per Medicaid recipient might be used in order to correct for some of these problems. Because of differences in the Medicaid programs, this should not be used to compare states but could be used within a state over time. This should take care of the problem with growth in the TANF population. Kim will check this out with SC data. Adam and Melissa will work together on writing this up and send it to Priscilla to send to the conference call participants.

There was considerable discussion related to how long a state should use the original baseline fertility rate to calculate averted births. This is particularly relevant for renewal states. There were good arguments for both using it for the life of the waiver and for updating it for renewals. Neither was recommended. One suggestion was that a 3-year average baseline fertility rate be used that would correct for fluctuations in the fertility rate between years. Washington state has done a lot of work looking at their baseline fertility rate and trying to update it that might be helpful to the southeastern states.

It was pointed out that at some point the number of births averted will level out when a waiver has been renewed several times. This does not mean that the waiver is no longer needed, because without the waiver

they would probably go back up. Family planning methods should be used to help women better time their births and have children when they are would like to. It's role is NOT to wipe out births. Kim says that in SC they are planning on looking at their projected number of births averted and comparing it to the actual number averted to see how well their projection methodology worked. They will also be able to take any 5-year period and see how a projection methodology would work.

At the end of the call Priscilla asked the evaluators if they could provide yearly data on the percent of the eligible population enrolled in the waiver and the percent of the enrolled population seen. Those on the call said they could. She asked them to check with their Title X Directors to see if they were planning on bringing this information to the RNDMU workshop September 25-27th. If not, the evaluators can send it to Priscilla and she will prepare graphs for discussion. This year states will be breaking out into small groups with two states in each group. Each pair of states will be discussing one of the following three reproductive health outcome measures: adolescent pregnancy and repeat pregnancy (MS and SC), adult unintended pregnancy (FL and NC), and short birth interval (AL, GA, KY, and TN).

Next Call: October 9th from 1 until 2 PM EDT. The phone number for all the calls is 919-962-2740. Suggestions for topics to discuss should be sent to Priscilla prior to the call.