

Family Planning Medicaid Waiver Evaluators Conference Call

August 14, 2006, 1.00-2.00 pm EDT

Participants

Evaluators: Mario Ariet, Kim Dauner, Dave Murday
State Staff: Bernie Operario, Robin Slate (NC Medicaid Finance and Budget), Lorie Williams, Andy Yow (NC Medicaid Quality Evaluation and Outcomes)
Sheps Center Staff: Priscilla Guild, Ellen Shanahan
Others: Dave Mlawski (CMS), Melissa Romaine (CMS), Adam Sonfield (AGI)

Not on the Call

Evaluators: Janet Bronstein, Paul Buescher, Molly Carpenter, Lynne Cossman, Mike Resnick, Jeff Roth
State Staff: Kay Aloi, Mel Chang, Bonnie Cox, Joe Holliday, Susan McNamara, Janet Sheridan, Cindy Thames, Betsy Wood
Sheps Center Staff: No one
Others: Nancy Dieter (CMS), Kathleen Farrell (CMS), Meredith Robertson (CMS)

Adam Sonfield announced that the report that the Guttmacher Institute is doing to measure impact on the number of abortions and budget benefits that would be expected if every state had a Medicaid family planning waiver will be released this Wednesday at midnight. He will send Pris the press release and links to the report to send to the group (participants and non-participants for this call). The report should also be available on the Guttmacher website Wednesday morning. The authors are Jennifer Frost, Rachel Gold, and Adam. A companion report on the policy implications by Rachel Gold will be published at the same time.

Melissa Romaine asked the group to give CMS input on how they are measuring births averted and how this impacts on using a template that CMS/OMB are proposing. Some persons in CMS are concerned that the template does not accurately reflect what is happening in the states. Melissa will send Pris a copy of the template to send to the group. For those who are new to the call, Pris asked that she be given e-mail addresses so they can be added to her address book and get all material that she distributes to this group. Comments can be sent back to Melissa directly and this will also be discussed on the September conference call. The template cannot be scrapped altogether but Melissa would like states to “think outside the box” for ways the template could be improved to give better measures.

Lorie Williams then introduced the two new NC participants. Robin Slate works with Medicaid Finance and Budget and Andy Yow with Medicaid Quality Evaluation and Outcomes.

Discussion then moved on to two topics suggested at the last meeting. .

- **Methods to Include Third Party Liability (TPL) Collections in Budget Neutrality:** According to Melissa, this approach will probably be phased out since a woman who has third party coverage for ANY family planning service is not eligible for the waiver. The difficulty here is defining what services are being considered. As an example, when is a Pap Smear part of family planning and when is it Women’s Health. There are also problems with this approach when insurance may cover some family planning services but not contraceptives. There were more questions than answers when we got into this discussion and since this is a topic where Meredith Robertson has the most knowledge, further discussion will wait until she is on the call.
- ^a **Use of CMS64 Data:** CMS is interested in whether states are using these data in their evaluations. SC uses it for expenditures in budget neutrality calculations and NC is using it for their quarterly reports. Melissa then asked what evaluators think is the best data to use for growth projections. There did not seem to be one consistent answer here and it depended on the maturity (age) of the waivers. Everyone on the call thought that CMS could be the most help here. It would be useful to have information on such things as percent of target population enrolling and percent of

enrolled population participating in various states over time. The experience of other states could then be used for projections. Melissa will look into this. Of course to make use of this information, states will have to know how the terms (enrollee and participant) are defined. The use of common definitions would be helpful. Melissa is working on this and has a copy of the definitions that this group recommended. Adam said that the Guttmacher Institute used this kind of information to produce the estimates for their report that will be released on Wednesday.

Next Call: September 11th from 1 until 2 PM EDT. The phone number for all the calls will be 919-962-2740. The topic for discussion will be the CMS proposed template described earlier in these minutes.