

**Family Planning Medicaid Waiver Evaluators Conference Call
MINUTES
January 12, 2009 1:00 – 2:00 pm EST**

Participants (who identified themselves, about 5 additional who joined later)

Evaluators: Janet Bronstein (AL); Nancy Hardt, Jeff Roth (FL); Kathy Vetter (IL); Bo Martin (NC); Kim Dauner, Dave Murday (SC); Molly Carpenter (VA).

State Staff: Kathy Canfield, Catherine McGrath and Susan McNamara (FL); Sondra Burns (LA); Bernie Operario, Marcia Swartz and Angie Yow (NC); Susan Barber and Margaret Major (TN).

Other: Paul Youket (CMS); Adam Sonfield (Guttmacher Institute); Julie DeClerque, Ellen Shanahan (Sheps Center).

After being complimented by Paul Youket from CMS as “the group that included the top family planning evaluators in the country, if not the world” ...the first conference call of 2009 began with a discussion of best ways to share work across sites and to archive the materials and work that has been produced since October 2005 when the calls began. The group decided that it would work best to have a *web site* where items could be posted in two ways: (1) for the general public, and (2) privately for access to group members only. Items that would be available to the public would be: finalized tables, grids, and definitions used for calculating figures; sample final evaluation plans and annual summary reports (once cleared by State for posting on site); other ancillary reports and presentations made by States related to waivers; group roster and contact information; list of topics covered to date on the calls (omitting names of discussion leaders); and links to related publications and published reports. Items that would be available only to group members through a private (accessed by a group userid and passcode) would be: most current versions of draft tables and data files; minutes of past meetings; specific contract deliverables that may be useful to other State evaluators but not necessarily appropriate for public distribution. Several options were suggested: Sheps website either through RNDMU project or directly; Blackboard; or DHHS type-portal designed for data sharing and collaborative work. Jeff Roth and Catherine McGrath volunteered as consultants to Sheps staff in working on this. Anyone not able to join the call, but who has ideas about the website, or who wants to serve as consultant, email Julie_DeClerque@unc.edu. The hope is to have something started by next month’s call for everyone to look at and comment on. Update: The website will be ready for test viewing by noon on Thursday Feb. 5th. Log on to www.shepscenter.unc.edu/data/Rndmu. Passcode for “private” files will be “PLANIFY”.

Next, the discussion focused on the comparative benchmarking and cross-state comparisons the group has been working on. Dave Murday provided a quick synopsis of where we are and asked for comments as to what people think about the utility of the exercises, the rationale for and the measures we have been trying to refine, and where the group thinks we need to go from here. The remainder of the call was devoted to specific issues in the benchmarking topics: reimbursement rates, defining providers, and defining primary care visit. We picked up on the discussion from November, and the work that Dave Murday and his workgroup had done paring down a list of procedure codes based on expense

(reimbursement) and frequency of use. Several questions were raised and discussed: is this a fruitful exercise? (general consensus is “yes” despite complexity). Will we be able to see any correlation between reimbursement rates and numbers served? (That is ultimately part of what we want to determine). What if we only have data from several states – is this still going to be useful? (Consensus was yes, as long as we understand the profile of the programs and how they differ from each other, for example in how services are delivered and the public/private provider mix). Why are some states having better luck getting and keeping private providers involved in their waiver programs than others? To what extent is this a factor in the success of a program? Decision was that we need a brief description of each State’s program and how the waiver fits in with other FP services, esp Title X. Kathy Vetter (IL) volunteered to develop the template for each State to fill in. She will email it out to the group once available, and she will add instructions about how it should be completed. Thank you, Kathy!

Finally, the group decided we needed an overall framework to consolidate our comparative information to help us see what we have so far and what we still need to tackle. Dave Murday (SC), Jeff Roth (FL) and Kim Dauner (FL) volunteered to do this task for the group. Dave challenged the newer members of the group to be thinking about what topics or needs they might have that would be useful for them in their programs, and bring their thoughts to the group next month (or send now to Dave at murday@gwm.sc.edu or murday@sc.edu).

Action #1: Continue completion of the Excel file (again attached for those State’s who have not yet sent their data). Check to see what your largest state employee plan (for most states it seems to be BCBS PPO) pays for the 10 codes listed by the Workgroup as well as the State’s Medicaid rates. Send your completed Excel files to Dave Murday murday@gwm.sc.edu by Wednesday, January 28th.

Action #2: Contact Kathy Vetter (kvette1@uic.edu) if you are interested in joining the workgroup investigating different provider types. Kathy has the details.

Action #3: Each state should email the following to the Sheps Center These will be posted on the new Website, as described above:

1. Final Waiver Evaluation Plan for your state
2. Annual Summary Report for your program
3. Papers, presentations, or ancillary reports related to FP waiver activities or evaluation
4. Survey tools, questionnaires that may be useful to fellow FP waiver evaluators
5. Anything else you think would be appropriate to share

Please send to Ellen_Shanahan@unc.edu. Make sure any documents being sent have State clearance for distribution to the group. The website will be ready for test viewing by noon on Thursday Feb. 5th. Passcode for “private” files will be “PLANIFY”.

Next Call: February 9th from 1 until 2 PM EDT. The call-in number for all the calls is (919) 962-2740.