

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

July 14, 2008, 1:00-2:00 pm EDT

Participants

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

State Staff: Kris-Tena Albers, Kathy Canfield, Karen Jackson, Catherine McGrath, Marie Melton and Janet Temkin (FL); Linda Wheal (IL); Sondra Burns (LA); Gwen Alexander and Mary Hinds-Reed (MS); Tysha David and Marcia Swartz (NC); Margaret Major (TN)

Sheps Center: Ellen Shanahan

Joining the call for the first time today were:

- Kris Albers, Director Infant, Maternal and Reproductive Health Unit, FL DOH;
- Gwen Alexander, Data Manager, MS Department of Family Planning; Kathy Canfield, FL Bureau of Medicaid Services;
- Mary Hinds-Reed Title X Director, MS: and
- Linda Wheal IL Department of Health Care and Family Services.

We welcome them to the group and look forward to their participation in the calls.

Discussion

The July 14 conference call began with a discussion of the latest set of state data sent around by Priscilla Guild prior to the call. Discussion focused on the several major issues for consideration, including:

- Missing data for several states. Representatives for Illinois, Mississippi, and Louisiana reported that they are still in the process of gathering their information and they will forward it to Priscilla as soon as they are able.
- Given the other similarities in program data between Alabama and South Carolina, the substantial difference in “Expected Births” (Row 6) is surprising. The base year and formula for this calculation vary by state (depending on the federal Special Terms & Conditions). Since it would be politically complicated to revise these calculations, and might even be impossible to find the historical data that would be required for states with older waivers, we discussed using births to participants as an alternative. While this would resolve concerns about varying methods of calculating “Expected Births,” there are also varying methods of calculating births to participants. Janet, Jeff, and Kathy Vetter agreed to develop and distribute a template to collect data on how states currently calculate actual births to participants. Then based on that information, they will recommend a common definition for us all to use.

- The issue of how many waiver participants are served by Title X (Rows 8 and 9) was discussed, particularly potential discrepancies between data reported by Title X programs through FPAR and data reported by evaluators from Medicaid claims. Linda Wheal will send out data from the most current FPAR on the number of waiver participants served by Title X programs in each state.
- As items for future consideration, Dave posed:
 - The possibility of a small group to review each state's methods to assure comparability (once all state data have been reported).
 - Highlighting key comparison benchmarks, along with what those benchmarks might indicate (e.g., ratio of number enrolled to number eligible might indicate need for greater outreach or reduced eligibility process barriers).

Next Call: August 11th from 1 until 2 PM EDT. The call-in number for all the calls is (919) 962-2740.