

**Family Planning Evaluators
Conference Call**
June 12, 2006, 1.00-2.00 pm EDT

Participants

Evaluators: Janet Bronstein, Jeff Roth
State Staff: Joe Holliday, Janet Sheridan, Bernie Operario, Lori Williams
Sheps Center Staff: Priscilla Guild, Ellen Shanahan
Guest: Adam Sonfield

Not on the Call

Evaluators: Mario Ariet, Paul Buescher, Lynne Cossman, Kim Dauner, Dave Murday
State Staff: Kay Aloi, Bonnie Cox, Cindy Thames, Betsy Wood
Sheps Center Staff:
Guest: Molly Carpenter (from Virginia)

Dave was not able to arrange for anyone from CMS to be on this call so the discussion centered around the “Alabama Model” that CMS seems to be pushing related to calculating budget neutrality and the document Pris distributed prior to the meeting attempting to summarize the common definitions/procedures that we have decided upon so far.

The “Alabama Model” for Calculating Budget Neutrality:

Soon after our last meeting Adam Sonfield distributed to us material he had from Minnesota and Michigan on how they were calculating budget neutrality, including Excel spreadsheets. In the process of working through Florida’s renewal, Jeff had received similar information, although it sounds like his spreadsheets are not quite the same. Janet Bronstein was not sure what CMS was referring to in the “Alabama Model” but suspects it is based on a methodology that is used by the Alabama Medicaid office to take Janet’s data on births averted and make budget neutrality calculations. Jeff will check with Kay Aloi and if she does not have a problem, he will send us all copies of the material he was referring to.

Region IV Common Definitions:

Budget Neutrality: Janet Bronstein thought we had come to consensus on more of the definitions based on the material she and Dave presented in March. To calculate **births averted** you would take your baseline fertility rate and apply it to the number of demonstration participants in a particular year to calculate the number of expected births. The actual number of births to participants that year would then be subtracted from the expected births to get births averted. Births to participants seen for the first time that year under the Medicaid Family Planning waiver and who were pregnant on their first visit should be excluded. The **estimated cost of these births**, had they occurred should be calculated by multiplying the number of births averted by an estimate of the costs of prenatal care and delivery as well as the cost for the first year of life for the infant. For Alabama, these are estimated by the Medicaid Office and no one from the Alabama or South Carolina Medicaid offices was on the phone, so we do not have specifics for how this would be done.

Populations of Interest: After some discussion it was agreed that there four populations of interest: eligible, enrolled, participants/users, and dropouts. When doing budget neutrality calculations, the user population should be used, since these are the women who have received a family planning waiver service that was a cost to Medicaid. Comparing these costs to the estimate costs averted due to a prevented or delayed delivery should be of most interest to CMS. Public health professionals should also be interested in comparing the eligible and enrolled populations, the enrolled and user populations, as well as dropouts to see who is not receiving services and should be targeted for outreach.

Pris has revised the summary on common definitions, which is attached. Please give her any edits or suggestions for changes.

Next Call: The next call is scheduled for July 10th from 1 until 2 PM EDT but Pris will be on vacation. She will check with Dave to see if he wants have this call be with CMS and take the lead on it, including the minutes. If not, she will check with participants about rescheduling the call. The phone number for all the calls continues to be 919-962-2740.