

Family Planning Medicaid Waiver Evaluators Conference Call

June 13, 2011, 1:00-2:00 pm EST

Participants

Evaluators: Jeff Roth (FL); Dave Murday (SC); Michelle Bensenberg, Kristin Christensen (TX)

State Staff: Lynn Smith (FL); Tara Sangster-Clark (IL); Andrea Phillips and Marcia Swartz (NC); Stacey Johnston and Alex Melis (TX)

Other: (Special thanks to Jennifer Groves for initiating the call at UNC.)

Minutes

Approval of May Minutes: The May minutes were approved and will be moved to the public side of our group web page. Since many participants were not on the June call, revisions to the May minutes can still be made.

As noted in the May minutes, having completed the initial compilation of standard financial indicators across some states, the group has decided to consider preterm birth, low birth weight, age at first birth and inter-pregnancy interval.

Shortly before the call, Dave had sent out the most recent data from South Carolina showing multi-year trends for age at first birth and birth to conception interval. Jeff noted that the experts in Florida were skeptical of the data on date of conception as found on birth certificates and were leaning towards using inter-birth interval instead of inter-pregnancy interval. Dave noted that SC had originally used inter-birth interval but had changed after publication of the 2006 JAMA meta-analysis¹. Other states on the call noted that due to data constraints, they were more likely to use inter-birth interval. Dave will send out the older SC data on inter-birth interval and other states are asked to share their available data prior to the July call.

Dave highlighted the data on age at first birth. Since SC's first FP waiver was only for post-partum women, inter-birth interval made sense as an indicator. When CMS allowed states to expand to cover women who were not post-partum, "age at first birth" was developed as a comparable indicator of success in delaying unwanted pregnancy. No other state uses a comparable indicator, so this probably is not a candidate for a standard measure across states.

Discussion moved on to preterm birth and low birth weight as outcomes indicators. Jeff Roth volunteered to send out some data from Florida and to lead the initial discussion on the July call.

Immediately prior to the call, Kathleen Adams, the evaluator of Georgia's new FP Waiver, sent out an e-mail asking the group if anyone has used any provider or client surveys to assess understanding of the waiver, access and perhaps satisfaction with the waiver services. As noted in the May minutes, AL and

¹ Conde-Agudelo A, Rosas-Bermudez A, Kafury-Goeta A. (2006) Birth Spacing and Risk of Adverse Perinatal Outcomes: A Meta-analysis. *JAMA*, 295(15):1809-1823.

VA have shared their survey via the UNC website. Other states are encouraged to send their surveys directly to Kathleen and copy Julie Perry from the Sheps Center (jperry@schsr.unc.edu) if they are willing to share with others via the website.

Next Steps: As noted above, please share any data from your state related to inter-pregnancy or inter-birth interval (i.e., birth spacing) prior to the July call. That call will open with a discussion of birth spacing and potential standard indicators for this measure, and then will move on to a discussion of preterm birth and low birth weight as other outcome indicators.

Again, the issue of CMS participation was raised – this time in the context of wondering if future waivers will have to address indicators regarding referral to primary care.

Next call: Monday, July 11 at 1:00 pm. The call-in number is (919) 962-2740.