

Family Planning Medicaid Waiver Evaluators Conference Call
March 14, 2011, 1:00-2:00 pm EST

Participants

Evaluators: Loretta Alexander (AR); Jeff Roth (FL); Michelle Bensenberg, Kristen Christensen, Kimberly Davis and Michelle Hudson (TX)

State Staff: Ghasi Phillips (FL); Andrea Phillips and Marcia Swartz (NC); Margaret Major (TN); Stacey Johnston and Alex Melis (TX)

Other: Julie DeClerque, Priscilla Guild and Ellen Shanahan (Sheps)

Minutes

Approval of January Minutes: Minutes approved for publication on public side of web page.

Update from CMS on State FP Waivers

Busy time of the year, so no CMS representatives on the call today.

Update from Guttmacher (National Perspective)

Adam is out of the office today, so he could not join the call, so no update from Guttmacher.

Update on State Decisions (SPA vs Waivers):

FL: no update

IL: Medicaid Reform legislation was implemented January 2011 and includes a moratorium for two years on expanded populations. Moving to a SPA would require IL an expansion to include males, and therefore would preclude the possibility of submitting an application. IL consulted with CMS regarding flexibility, and learned that was not a possibility. Current FP Waiver expires March 2012, so IL is beginning the process of renewing the 1115 Waiver.

SC: As of January 1, SPA is effective. This is the second state.

NC: Waiver extended to 6/30/11 but we continue with our process to transition to a SPA (Andrea Phillips).

TX: Still awaiting legislative decision. Bills have been introduced to continue the waiver. But no final decision expected until early summer.

List of Indicators for Comparative Benchmarking:

The Workgroup has been finalizing the indicators we want to summarize as a group. The purpose is to have comparative benchmarks to assess historical benefits of the FP Waiver across states. We have narrowed the list from the original 40 + items to a final list of 15 indicators across five general groupings: (1) utilization and access; (2) financing; (3) clinical care; (4)

clinical outcomes; and (5) fertility-related outcomes. See reference document distributed and also posted on the web: [State Family Planning Waiver Evaluation Indicators \(By Topic/Focus\)](#)

Next steps for benchmarking are to begin gathering data for the indicators. We will start with an indicator that is available across states and hopefully readily available, ie, data everyone used in calculating their budget neutrality. This is indicator #7 on our most recent list (from February 2011). Dave distributed a worksheet for each state to complete, which is on the second page of the revised indicator list.

Send Dave the data as soon as you can: murday@gwm.sc.edu. Texas reported that they will be tied up until after the legislative session ends, likely June. Let's all try and have figures to Dave by end of June.

We spent a few minutes discussing next steps for the group, and all agreed that it's difficult to make plans or to know exactly what will be most useful to us since so much is up in the air in terms of state and federal budgets.

Despite these uncertainties, there was a round of endorsement for the importance of our waiver conference calls. One valuable aspect that makes the calls so unique is the set of voices involved. As several people pointed out, it's one of the only "forums" where state-level FP program managers, university/academic evaluators, state-level Medicaid staff, and public policy experts all meet together informally and on a regular basis. It provides an opportunity to share issues of common concern, learn from each others' experiences, discern trends across programs, and collectively provided reasoned feedback to help guide future work. Jeff Roth subsequently suggested there should be some documentation of the process of our group over the years, and Ellen remembered a CMS acknowledgement on their web page of our monthly phone calls being an important forum (see attached file, "FPWE conf calls at Sheps.pdf").

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

Attachments: Revised State FPW Eval Indic.doc
FPWE conf calls at Sheps.pdf