

THE UTAH HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

HEALTH MATTERS

Utah *Health Matters* E-Newsletter!

July 6, 2007

Hello Health Advocates!

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1. CHIP Open Enrollment is Here!

This week the Department of Health reopened CHIP for enrollment. What does this mean? Thousands of uninsured Utah children can get health insurance. The Utah legislature generously expanded funding for CHIP this year, but there is still not enough money for all CHIP eligible Utah kids to be covered. So don't wait, enroll now.

Enroll here:

www.health.utah.gov/chip
1-877-KIDS-NOW

2. CHIP *Still is in Trouble* in Congress

With the good news of CHIP open enrollment here in Utah, we had hoped to report this month that Congress had done its part and reauthorized CHIP so millions of uninsured kids could count on CHIP being there for them in the years ahead. Unfortunately CHIP reauthorization continues to be a struggle in Washington. The Senate Finance Committee delayed it's long expected CHIP Mark-up to July 12. The Good news: You still have a chance to tell Senator Hatch to support full reauthorization CHIP. The bad news: Senator Hatch really does need to hear from you. The most important question in SCHIP Re-authorization is funding. Right now Sen. Hatch does *not* support the full \$50 billion that is needed to address the growing crisis of uninsured children.

Please tell Senator Hatch **to support the *Chip Reauthorization Act of 2007***. S. 1224, which authorizes the highest levels to provide health insurance for the six million children currently insured through the SCHIP, it also provides funds to cover an additional three million children

who are eligible, but do not have coverage. America's Uninsured Children are worth it.



Call or [E-mail](#) Senator Hatch Today!

1-800-828-0498

Urge them to protect children's health by supporting SCHIP!

(Talking Points for Sen. Hatch)

- **Deliver on the pledge of \$50 billion in new funding.** This is the minimum amount of money states need to sustain their existing SCHIP programs and move forward to cover more uninsured children. All children in Utah and across the nation should have health care coverage and access to the health care services they need.
- **Reauthorize SCHIP well before September 30, 2007 to avoid unnecessary and harmful disruptions in state programs.** SCHIP reauthorization should be quick, clean, and unencumbered by provisions that would jeopardize timely action.
- **Provide states with new tools and financial support to cover more children, including:**
 - The option to provide SCHIP and Medicaid coverage to those legal immigrant children and pregnant women who currently cannot be covered until they have been in the country for five years.
 - The option to cover pregnant women through SCHIP without relying on waivers.
 - More tools to reach children who are already eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP or Medicaid, including "Express Lane Eligibility" to help get children enrolled when they apply for other programs.
 - Relief from the red-tape intensive federal mandate to document citizenship status in Medicaid.
 - For states that make significant strides in enrolling more children or that have and maintain high participation rates, additional federal support for the coverage costs that result.
- **Make certain that no one loses coverage.** Funding for covering uninsured children through the SCHIP program should not come from cuts to other programs or populations that are currently covered. It would be a travesty if SCHIP reauthorization wound up increasing the number of uninsured Americans.

The people of Utah believe overwhelmingly - regardless of political ideology, income or circumstance - that we have a moral obligation to cover children in need and SCHIP is the vehicle they believe in. A poll in January found 87 percent of Governor Huntsman's proposal to invest additional state funds in CHIP so that it can cover more children, and 88 percent agreeing that CHIP is a responsible way to invest in Utah's future.

3. Medicaid Policy Partnership meets Thursday

Meeting Agenda (proposed, also attached with Minutes)

Thursday, July 12, 2007, 12:30-2 p.m.

Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

155 South 300 West, Suite 100

Topic	Discussion Highlights	Decisions / Next Steps
Introductions (round-robin)		
UMPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summits with legislators -interaction with Family Investment Coalition - Statewideness - Membership expansion: UHPP strategy 	
Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CHIP: major new developments!!! -open enrollment & marketing strategy (special guest: Kolby Young, invited) -Next Steps for Sen. Hatch & Cong. Matheson -Citizenship documentation - UMPP role? 	
Interim (round-robin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HHS - TBA - MIC agenda for July 20 – Medicaid drug benefit & PDL - Request from MIC staff for ideas on increasing accountability & responsibility - MCAC review & hearing 	
Updates/ Carry-over Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidation (special guest: Diane Lovell, DWS) -Update on Exchange - Vision & dental strategy -Heads up for next time: new interest in Medicaid denial of claims & process. 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring 'it! 	
Next Meeting(s) <i>-always at Dev Disabilities Council, 155 S 300 W.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August 9 September 13 October 11 November 8 December 13 	

The Mission of the Utah Medicaid Policy Partnership

Our mission is to help ensure that the Utah Medicaid program provides access to quality, affordable, and comprehensive health care coverage to eligible Utahns

4. Last Call: The Utah Health Policy Project is hiring Full time Medicaid/CHIP Policy Director.

Applications are due July 10, 2007.

Utah Health Policy Project, Utah's leading health policy research and advocacy firm, is seeking an energetic, self starter with proven research and writing skills to oversee our Medicaid/CHIP Policy Clinic. The MPC provides timely critical analysis of Medicaid and CHIP policies and promotes fiscally sustainable policy solutions designed to preserve and enhance the availability of health care services to Medicaid and CHIP enrollees. Over the long-term, he or she will work closely with the UHPP team to leverage Medicaid/CHIP resources to ensure affordable, financially sustainable systemic health reform. The full job announcement and Medicaid/CHIP Strategic Plan are attached.

5. SAVE THE DATE: Multicultural Health Network Health Conference August 10

The Multicultural Health Network Health Disparities Summit (hosted by Comunidades Unidas) will be August 10, all day. See attached postcard for details/ to reserve space (1st come, 1st served). Highlights include Sen. Bob Bennett (on the Healthy Americans Act), Dr. Thomas La Veist (leading researcher in the field), Families USA's Rea Pañares, and others.

4th Annual
Multicultural Health Network Conference
Making the Connection:
Bringing Health Disparities to the Health Reform Table

Save the Date: August 10, 2007
Location: Radisson Hotel
215 West South Temple, Salt Lake City UT 84101
Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 PM

Center for Multicultural Health

Utah Health Policy Project
Quality Coverage for All Utahns

Multicultural Health
NETWORK
of Utah

CU
Comunidades Unidas

UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED
Office of Ethnic Affairs

Conference Co-sponsored by the UDOH, Center for Multicultural Health and
The Utah Office of Ethnic Affairs
To register please email isabel@cutah.org or for more information please contact (801) 898-3923
The Multicultural Health Network is a project coordinated by Comunidades Unidas "CU"
Funded by the UDOH, Center for Multicultural Health

6. Health Policy Calendar

Keep up to date on all events and activities related to health policy and covering the uninsured by visiting:

<http://www.healthpolicyproject.org/UHPP/calendar.html>

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