

Children's Health Care Access Priorities Grantmakers In Health Meeting

**May 2014
New York, NY**

Consumer Assistance

Challenge: The Marketplace has newly insured hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. These newly insured individuals will need assistance navigating the complex world of health insurance benefits and services. Consumers will need assistance with prior authorizations, referrals, appeals and other administrative functions necessary to securing the appropriate level of health care resources.

Additionally, New York's Medicaid program is in the midst of a significant transition to managed care for all beneficiaries and a forthcoming effort to dramatically re-shape all parts of the health care delivery system.

Potential Projects:

- Perform consumer outreach and education activities.
- Demonstrate the need for increased funding for robust consumer assistance at all stages of the health care coverage and delivery system.

Delivery System Reform through the Medicaid Waiver

Challenge: The recently approved \$8 billion Medicaid waiver will drastically change the service delivery system in New York. The Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program creates financial incentives to avoid more costly services such as emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Safety-net providers will be eligible for additional funding to secure financial viability in return for meeting certain quality indicators.

Potential Projects:

- Monitor the effects of Medicaid Redesign/DSRIP initiatives on children in New York.
- Ensure that services meet the diversity of need among New York's children and youth.
- Ensure that the Medicaid consumer voice is heard.

School-based Health Delivery

Challenge: Schools will play a critical role in the changing health care landscape of New York. Schools offer a space in which providers can deliver services to a hard-to-reach population in a more accessible, confidential manner. School health delivery systems, however, face an uncertain financial landscape.

Potential Projects:

- Assess and mitigate barriers to the expansion of the school health system in New York.
- Secure adequate Medicaid reimbursement for health services delivered in schools.
- Ensure a smooth transition into managed care for school-based health center providers.

Children's Behavioral Health

Challenge: Treatment for behavioral health needs consistently lags behind treatment for physical health issues among New York children and youth. While behavioral health issues are highly prevalent across New York, awareness and treatment remain woefully low. Held back by stigma, shortages of child mental health professionals and inadequate health insurance coverage, too many children have been unable to seek out the health services that can promote healing and wellness.

The medical, developmental and mental health needs of children, youth and families in the child welfare system far surpass those of the general population. Changes in health care delivery, payment and coordination present the risk of further traumatization and the opportunity to dramatically improve care and outcomes.

Potential Projects:

- Explore ways to increase provider capacity (reimbursement, workforce, etc), with a special focus on children, adolescents, and families.
- Closely monitor implementation and enforcement of ACA benefits and parity standards.
- Perform outreach activities for communities, and health and social support service providers that develop knowledge of behavioral health needs and reduce stigma.

Children's Oral Health

Challenge: Thirty-three percent of New York's third graders have untreated tooth decay, a preventable condition. Children are much less likely to access dental care than other health care, even when they have coverage. Oral health coverage uptake is disappointingly low in New York. Provider reimbursements in public programs are too low. Affordability for standalone dental plans remains an issue for people purchasing coverage on the Marketplace.

Potential Projects:

- Identify data needs to describe the nature and extent of existing oral health disparities.
- Develop a multi-front strategy with partners to reduce gaps in dental care and increase provider capacity (i.e. reimbursement, workforce, etc.).
- Demonstrate the need for increased affordability of dental benefits on the Marketplace.