



Thursday, June 30, 2011 • 11:30 am
Arkansas Studies Institute
Room 124

AGENDA

Finish Line Coalition Interim Goals:

1. Reduce the number of uninsured children by:
 - simplifying enrollment and retention
 - expanding coverage to kids in families with incomes up to 250% of FPL.
2. Use the opportunities presented by health reform to move toward family-based coverage, with a focus on low-income kids and families

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Update: [Arkansas Health Benefits Exchange Planning](#)

Cindy Crone, Arkansas Department of Insurance

- See Powerpoint Presentation [here](#)

III. Federal budget and policy update – Playing Medicaid Defense

Brett Kincaid, AACF Outreach Director

- As the August 2nd deadline for raising the debt ceiling rapidly approaches, Congress has tough decisions to make which may potentially have a negative impact on Medicaid in our state.
- The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has issued a brief outlining a proposal to establish a Federal Medicaid Blended Rate Policy. To find out more click [here](#).
- The NYT reports today about even deeper cuts to both Medicaid and Medicare that the Obama Administration is willing to accept. http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43635698/ns/politics-the_new_york_times/#
- Note that since this meeting, the debt ceiling has been increased, but many concerns remain. See AACF statement here: <http://www.aradvocates.org/our-view-of-the-federal-deficit-deal/>

IV. “Cutting Red tape” progress and Access Arkansas

Linda Greer, DHS Division of County Operations



- Access Arkansas has received approximately 15,132 applications for ARKids First since implementation of the system, with about 600 applications coming in every month.
- Applications for SNAP, TEA Cash, and TEA Medicaid averages about the same as the number of applications for ARKids First per month.
- An Access Arkansas processing center will soon open in Batesville, AR, which will allow for the SNAP-Medicare Savings Program Merge Project, which will allow eligibility workers to process both applications at once.
- A new policy that utilizes pre-populated forms and would change SNAP to a waiver for a 36 month certification
- DHS is currently preparing to pilot a telephone interview system for ARKids First renewals in 4 counties, including Searcy, White, Miller, and St. Francis.
- Through this telephone renewal system, parents will have the choice to mail the renewal letter with information back in to DHS or call and provide that information instead.
- The target for the telephone pilot program is August, which is when the October renewal letters will go out.
- DHS is hoping to eventually begin utilizing pre-populated forms for ARKids First renewal.
- DHS would also like to eventually use Access Arkansas to allow parents to check on the status of an application and for renewal purposes.
- In regards to ex-parte review, DHS would like to increase the number of data matches and are looking to use The Work Number, a verification company, which could provide enhanced services with real time information using social security number matches.

V. **Next meeting (note change!)**– Finish Line Coalition – September 29, 11am, 2011, ASI Room 124

Future food for thought: How best to provide feedback to many efforts around Medicaid and the ACA?

- Medicaid Transformation
- ACA Medicaid expansion/eligibility doorway
- Insurance Exchange planning
- Workforce efforts
- HIT planning
- Insurance Rate Review