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From: "Neil Cronin" <NCronin@mlri.org>
Subject: Various Medicaid Health Reform Updates
Date: Wed, 02 Aug 2006 14:36:22 -0400

1. On July 26th, the Federal Government (CMS) issued its approval of the of the revised MassHealth Demonstration Project, fully authorizing the health care expansions set forth by Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006. (See the CMS Approval Notice attached:

- The most immediate result of the waiver amendment was the increase in MassHealth Essential's enrollment cap from 44,000 member to a 60,000 allowable participation rate. This means that the entire Essential wait list of 10,500 people has been eliminated and immediately enrolled in MassHealth Essential. **Important reminder: Under MassHealth Essential medical services are covered only after the eligible member has enrolled with PCC managed care provider.**
- A second and unexpected result of the negotiations between the state and federal government has been **the complete elimination of enrollment caps for CommonHealth adults and the full extension of EPSDT rights to children in the CommonHealth Program.**

2. The House and Senate overrode many of the Governor's FY 07

budget vetoes so we are attaching a revised summary of the '07 Health budget. Of particular note:

- Full funding for health reform
- MH extended to 19 year olds leaving foster care
- 2003 cut in community spouse resource allowance restored
- Help getting birth certificates from DPH at no cost to applicants for MassHealth-- We're still waiting for details from DPH about process

3. Upcoming Events

- **Aug 8 hearing on CMSP changes** - After July 1st, as part of Health Reform, children between 200% and 300% of poverty were moved from the Children's Medical Security Plan to MassHealth Family Assistance. While this is generally good news, some families will be unable to pay the higher premiums charged in the MassHealth program, and will face termination in coverage if the household falls into arrears. Under Emergency Regulations issued by Medicaid, children who lose MassHealth coverage for non-payment of MassHealth premiums will be further barred from receiving the more limited but far cheaper coverage under the CMSP. There is public hearing on these regulations on August 8th at 11:00 am on the 21st floor of One Ashburton Place in Boston. The Children's Health Access Coalition (CHAC) plans to testify in opposition to the new CMSP restriction and will seek additional protections for families facing "sticker shock" because of the unexpected increase in their premiums.
- **Aug 9-Connector Board Hearing in Gardner Auditorium at the State House**, starting at 11:00 am, on the content of new subsidized CCHIP insurance plans to be offered Oct 1. The ACT!! Coalition plans to testify on a variety of CCHIP issues, including affordability of participant premiums, covered services, and gaps in eligibility for CCHIP eligibility.
- **Aug 11- comment deadline on CMS final rule on citizen verification** --we will be circulating a comments for sign-on by interested groups soon

Let us know of any issues arising related to MassHealth restorations, expansions or the new verification requirements, or if you need any information about the upcoming hearings.

Thanks and try to stay cool Vicky and Neil.

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Attachment: [MA-Letter.pdf](#)

Description: Adobe PDF document

Attachment: [FY 2007 budget update.doc](#)

Description: MS-Word document