



San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department

MEETING MINUTES

Coverage Initiative Planning Project (CIPP)

Stakeholder Group

Meeting #2 – Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

The meeting convened at 3:40 PM.

Attendance

Stakeholder representatives in attendance: Ahmad Nooristani, SLO Noor Clinic; Richard Phillips, Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center; Molly D'Ambrosio, CenCal Health; Hans Poschman, Office of Senator Sam Blakeslee; Abby Lassen, California Rural Legal Assistance; Amy Gilman, Office of Supervisor Jim Patterson; Jason Chang, Twin Cities Hospital; Lynn Enns, County Health Commission; Tracy Buckingham, Dept. of Social Services (DSS); Christina Chow, DSS; Pati Garcia, DSS; Clint Slaughter, ED Physician.

Others in attendance: Joel Diringer, Diringer & Associates; Jennifer Shay, SLO Co Public Health Dept.; Deanne Purcell, SLO Co Health Systems; Gloria Gonzales, SLO Co Health Systems; Jeff Hamm, SLO Co Health Agency; Penny Borenstein, SLO Co Public Health Dept.; Marsha Bollinger, SLO Co Public Health Dept.

Handouts provided: Agenda; Tentative Meeting Schedule; Handout of PowerPoint Presentation: Moving Forward Collaboratively; Data Table: Who are the medically indigent in SLO County?; CHEAC Memorandum; California Budget Project October 2010 Budget Brief; List of CIPP Acronyms.

Resource links provided:

- Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Waiver Renewal Resource Page <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/WaiverRenewal.aspx>
- Legislation: SB208; AB342; AB1628 <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/index.html>
- California Budget Project http://cbp.org/pdfs/2010/101025_BB_Federal_Health_Law.pdf

Welcome and Introductions

Joel Diringer, of Diringer & Associates, welcomed the stakeholder representatives and began introductions followed by a review of the meeting handouts.

CIPP Planning Project

Joel Diring reviewed the tentative meeting schedule and pointed out that although this project's grant runs through to August, our meeting schedule will depend on how the state works out their schedule for implementation of the waiver. The meeting schedule is divided into three main stages: Information Gathering (October through January 2011); Analysis and Options (February through March 2011); and Cost/benefit of Coverage Initiative and Recommendation (April to May 2011). There may be several or very few options for our planning project, depending upon what the state decides, and then we will come to a decision point. Future meetings are scheduled in the County Agriculture building, behind the Public Health Dept.

State/Federal Policy Update

Joel Diring gave a short PowerPoint presentation titled *Moving Forward Collaboratively* (slide handout provided). The federal government approved California's application for an expanded Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver on November 1, 2010, which will provide \$10 billion in federal matching funds to expand existing Medi-Cal coverage. This will substantially expand the number of low-income people eligible for coverage. Many of the newly eligible are those currently eligible for our County CMSP. Previously called the Health Care Coverage Initiative, the state renamed the plan the Coverage Expansion and Enrollment Demonstration, or CEED. The federal government will match local, non-federal, certified public expenditures (CPEs). There are several requirements to be met in return for the federal government covering the newly eligible population in advance of health care reform in 2014. We are now reviewing the recently released, 116-page, waiver documentation including the special terms and conditions. The CHEAC Memorandum, included in the meeting handouts, provides a good, but brief, summary of the waiver.

Some of the challenges we will face as we go forward include: unknown rules and timelines; recent political changes (state and federal officials); how mental health and substance abuse parity rules will apply; cost of coverage and number of potential enrollees; no coverage for the undocumented; jail and prison matching funds; and how a slow start up by the state may affect us. The big issue is that the county has only a finite amount of CPEs while we must continue to meet our obligation to provide care for the medically indigent. Tracy Buckingham, of DSS, asked if our CPEs are finite, could we end up with a long enrollment waiting list before 2014. Joel Diring responded that it is most likely.

Jeff Hamm, the SLO Co Health Agency Director, responded to questions about the CEED provision for prisoner/jail inmate coverage included in AB 1628. He confirmed that state prison and county jail inmates who receive treatment or services at outside community hospitals could be included in the waiver. The state will reimburse the county for these outside services for prison patients. In the case of eligible jail inmates we already pay for, we would be reimbursed for half of the costs through the federal matching funds.

Joel Diringler concluded the presentation with a review of our next steps: understand current delivery and coverage system; identify CPEs; understand Waiver's terms and conditions; and develop options for participation.

Who are the medically indigent in SLO County? -A Review of the Data

Joel Diringler discussed the data table (handout provided) that included information about the number of the county's uninsured population, aged 18-64 years with additional subsets of those below 200% of the federal poverty level, non-citizens, and those eligible for Medi-Cal. The two primary sources for data were the Census 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2007 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). Although both are highly regarded and widely used, the usefulness of the data provided is limited due to our county's small statistical sampling size, which is reflected in the large margins of error reported. Additional data was provided by our county CMSP program; however, the CMSP eligibility requirement includes only ages 21-64. The data indicated that our CMSP patients represent only 10% of the county's uninsured, aged 18-64. While all but 130 of the 2,561 CMSP patients are 200% below the federal poverty level, they represent only 16% of the county's eligible population. Joel Diringler further explained that CMSP is based on episodic coverage and usually does not cover those with pending Medi-Cal applications, which can take up to two years to approve.

Discussion

Joel Diringler asked each person attending to briefly talk about his or her vision for the Coverage Initiative (now CEED). Dr. Penny Borenstein, the SLO Co Public Health Officer, said she is interested in health reform that focuses on prevention, and she is pleased that this initiative requires preventative care. Some people stated that CEED could be an opportunity to improve collaboration and prevent patients from falling through the cracks. Several others expressed concerns that there are already patients falling through the cracks and that more could be lost in the transition to CEED. Some suggested a CEED plan should include a public education campaign alerting people of the program's availability and benefits. Molly D'Ambrosio, of CenCal Health, announced that CenCal is currently developing a recruitment program which may play a part in future recruitment efforts for our initiative. Some people expressed concerns that patients are already finding it very difficult, or impossible, to get access to specialists and urgent care, and we need to find a way to increase provider participation. Dr. Ahmed Nooristani announced that the SLO Noor Foundation will open its free clinic in January. The clinic already has over 200 volunteers and will offer a broad range of free health care services to those who are uninsured and underinsured. The clinic is privately funded through donations. Joel Diringler concluded the discussion by thanking everyone for their participation in this project and acknowledged that it will be a challenge to transition from our current episodic, needs-based system to a preventative system.

The next meeting is in two weeks, Tuesday, November 23, 3:30-5:00 pm. It will be held at the SLO County Dept. of Agriculture Extension Auditorium: 2156 Sierra Way, SLO 93401 (off Bishop Street, behind the Public Health Dept.)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.