

Medicaid Matters

Summit participants convene to frame statewide HIE vision

New federal funding opportunities and a national push to advance the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records are helping the state of Alabama move more quickly to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of health care delivered in Alabama through the accurate and secure exchange of health information.

To help frame a vision for a statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE), more than 100 individuals representing health care providers, state agencies, technology experts and other interested stakeholders convened August 28 at Auburn University Montgomery.



Kathy Hall, Deputy Commissioner, Programs, summarizes breakout session feedback.



Participants in one of four breakout sessions offer input on the future of health information technology in Alabama.

In the day-long discussions, participants explored key issues of governance, plan development, types of data to be included, membership and sustainability.

“Based on feedback from participants, a viable Health Information Exchange (HIE) system in Alabama must ultimately be independent of any one organization,” said Alabama Medicaid Commissioner Carol Steckel. She noted that this would most likely be accomplished through the

establishment of an independent organization or commission that has HIE governance authority and sustainability responsibility and is supported by a broad-based group of stakeholders.

Information gleaned from the Summit will be first used in October to apply for State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program funding, provided from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Other ARRA-funded opportunities are expected to be available to states to further HIE development in the near future, Commissioner Steckel said.

“These funding streams offer Alabama unprecedented resources to expand the work begun through the Together for Quality Medicaid transformation effort by creating a true statewide HIE that is representative of all providers, payers and patients,” she emphasized. [Click here for more information.](#)



Bob Ashurst, Senior Consultant, AUM Center for Government, was moderator for the HIE Summit group sessions.



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State of Alabama chosen for national medical home consortium

Since its inception in 1997, Alabama Medicaid's Patient 1st program has worked to ensure that each recipient has access to a basic "medical home," an enhanced model of primary care in which care teams attend to the multi-faceted needs of patients with comprehensive and coordinated patient-centered care. Now, the Agency hopes that its selection for a national consortium will not only improve its flagship program, but more effectively position primary care practices to measure quality and deliver more coordinated, improved care to recipients.



The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) announced in September that Alabama and seven other states were selected through a competitive process to form NASHP's new Consortium to Advance Medical Homes for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Participants. Other states selected include Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Texas, and Virginia. Each state will receive a one-year program of technical assistance to support their efforts.

Each state will be represented by a leadership team which has committed to work together, with the support of NASHP through a grant from The Commonwealth Fund, to develop and implement policies that increase Medicaid and CHIP program participants' access to high performing medical homes. Alabama's team includes Kim Davis-Allen, Alabama Medicaid Director of Transformation Initiatives and state team leader, Cathy Caldwell, Director, Bureau of Children's Health Insurance /All Kids (CHIP) Program, Alabama Department of Public Health; Linda Lee, Executive Director of the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Dr. Marsha Raulerson, a Brewton, Ala., pediatrician, and a nationally-recognized advocate for child health. [Read more >>](#)

Medicaid fiscal agent changes name to HP Enterprise Services



EDS, Alabama Medicaid's fiscal agent and claims processor, has changed its name to HP Enterprise Services in most locations, effective September 23. The change was made following the Plano, Texas, company's acquisition by Hewlett-Packard (HP) in August 2008.

While the EDS name and logo are being phased out, Alabama Account Executive Keith Hollis emphasized that Alabama Medicaid providers will not experience any changes in service. He noted that providers can expect to see the HP logo or the HP Enterprise Services name on correspondence, emails from an @hp.com email address rather than an @eds.com address, and hear the HP name when calling the Montgomery office.

"The new name reflects HP's commitment to the longtime success of its clients. It also reminds our clients of the enhanced value they now get from the combination of EDS' proven operational excellence plus the best-in-class technology of HP," Hollis said.

Updated data, statistics now available on Agency website

Data on eligibility, utilization, costs and more are now available on the Medicaid website. The web page includes access to annual report charts and county specific data through FY 2008, and eligibility data through the most recent month. The information is available through the following link: http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/resources/stats_reports.aspx?tab=5.

Contact Us: **Recipient Questions & Assistance: 1-800-362-1504**
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