

ATCA Medicaid Work Group Report for November FY10 meeting

Work group: Medicaid and 3rd Party Payer

Chair and contact information:

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Main work group members: Kathy Allely, Margene Andrus, Scotty Barr, Bill Bouwens, Karlene Borja, Danielle Chard, Laura Coleman, Karen Doster, Jessica Harvill, Elmer Howarth, Molly Korpela, Lynda Koski, Virginia Walker, Sanya Krenzelok, LaRita Laktonen, Cindy Lincoln, Allen Moma, Marilyn Thornson and Laurie Wiese.

Summary of activities since last meeting:

The group met on September 23rd and is due to meet on October 28th. The group is scheduled to meet the 4th Thursday every month by teleconference at 2:30pm. The focus of these meetings has been to understand a new Medicaid budget request brought to the team's attention and to prepare documents to educate providers and Medicaid recipients on the upcoming changes.

We are currently drafting informational material for providers, Medicaid recipients, and pharmacists on the Medicaid changes to be implemented in the future. Southcentral Foundation offers the Anchorage Native News as an option for distribution and the ATCA website was also suggested. The team is brainstorming other options to network the flyers/info across the State. Mike Beiergrohslain may have the means through the RX for a Change community. .

Summary of activities or discussions anticipated for the next 4 months:

- LaRita Laktonen has accepted a new position with Cook Inlet Native Head Start, but will be willing to stay involved on the committee as chair in partnership with Andrea Thomas's leadership.
- Southcentral Foundation has volunteered to work on template flyers on to promote the new Medicaid changes once they have been finalized and made public.
- Look into publishing the Tobacco Medicaid utilization data in an EPI bulletin.
- Research ways of getting the new benefit promoted to physicians and pharmacists state-wide.
- Organize a meeting with Kathy Allely, Renee Gayhart, Michelle Lyons-Brown to discuss how best pursue Medicaid changes to reduce barriers to the tobacco cessation counseling benefit.
- Jessi and LaRita to attend the Multi-State Collaborative in Atlanta on October 28th and 29th and plan to review the table developed from the Multi-State Collaborative on effective approaches including: insurance coverage, health plan education, state employee insurance coverage, large employee focused outreach and education to leverage purchasing health plans that include tobacco cessation, targeted collaboration, Quit line tie with insurance, and Medicaid changes.