

From: NASHP News <Newsletter@nashp.org>

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Date: 10/25/2016 12:26:46 PM

Subject: NASHP News: Pharmacy Costs Work Group Releases Findings as Part of #NASHPconf16

Newsletter

October 25, 2016

### Pharmacy Costs Work Group Releases Findings as Part of #NASHPconf16

Last week in Pittsburgh, as part of our Annual State Health Policy Conference, NASHP released **findings** from our Pharmacy Costs Work Group that outlines 11 solutions for reining in pharmaceutical costs. The solutions offered in the newly released **findings** serve as a toolbox for states.

The findings outline 11 specific proposals:

1. Leveraging transparency to create public visibility and accountability;
2. Creating a public utility model for oversight of in-state drug prices;
3. Bulk purchasing and distributing high-priced, broadly-indicated drugs that protect the public's health;
4. Utilizing state unfair trade practices law;
5. Seeking the ability to re-import drugs from Canada on a State-by-State basis;
6. Pursuing Medicaid waivers and legislative changes to promote greater purchasing flexibility;
7. Enabling state action as a PBM;
8. Pursuing return on investment (ROI) pricing and forward financing as a PBM;
9. Ensuring state participation in Medicare Part D as Employer Group Waiver Plans;
10. Protecting consumers against misleading marketing; and
11. Exerting active shareholder roles in state pension funds to influence pharmaceutical company actions.

[Read the full findings.](#)



## Hat's Off to Another Successful Conference!

Last week more than 700 health policy leaders from all 50 states and the District of Columbia convened in Pittsburgh for the 29th Annual State Health Policy Conference.

The conference highlighted many of the most pressing health policy issues facing states today.

From the opioid crisis and children's health, to Medicaid expansion and coverage for justice-involved populations there was something for everyone. The conference also featured a slate of top-notch speakers including Governor Pete Shumlin of Vermont, Governor Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania, Drew Altman of the Kaiser Family Foundation, and Marilyn Tavenner of America's Health Insurance Plans to name a few.

A special thank you to our 2016 sponsors and exhibitors, and all who attended.



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## Congratulations to the 2016 Rising Star Award Recipient

The 2016 [Rising Star Award](#) was presented to Johanna Fabian-Marks, Special Deputy & Acting Director, Pennsylvania Department Bureau of Life, Accident & Health Insurance. Ms. Fabian-Marks was the second winner of the annual award.

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## Healthy Child Development State Resource Center's 'Resource of the Month'!

The October [Healthy Child Development State Resource Center](#) resource of the month is [the Early Childhood Mental Health Toolkit: Integrating Mental Health Services into the Pediatric Medical Home](#). This resource was developed through the partnership between the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Boston Public Health Commission and funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Ensuring the social and emotional health of our children is inextricable to promoting healthy child development. This toolkit provides information on the financing, systems support, family partnership, and staffing information necessary to integrate early childhood mental health services into the pediatric medical home. This resource may assist with practice-level change as states continue to undergo health care transformation to promote better health and better care with lower

costs.

If you have a resource you'd like NASHP to post in the Resource Center or feature in the future, please email [nmention@nashp.org](mailto:nmention@nashp.org). The Healthy Child Development State Resource Center is supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

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### Upcoming CMS Webinar: Identification and Stratification of Medicaid Beneficiaries

Medicaid IAP seeks to improve the care and health for Medicaid beneficiaries and reduce costs by supporting states' ongoing payment and delivery system reforms through targeted technical support. Many Medicaid programs across the country are focusing attention on improving the care of their Medicaid beneficiaries with complex needs that are driving high, but potentially avoidable costs.

As part of the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program's (IAP) Medicaid Beneficiaries with Complex Needs and High Costs (BCN) program, CMCS has been working with five states (District of Columbia, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia) since October 2015. As work continues with these states, IAP BCN is launching a four-part national dissemination webinar series highlighting lessons learned and sharing resources; these webinars are open to all states and interested stakeholders. The first of the national dissemination webinar series kicks off on **October 31st from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm ET** with a focus on ***Identification and Stratification of Medicaid Beneficiaries with Complex Needs and High Costs***. During this webinar states will learn about the different types of data and data analytics often involved in the design and implementation of BCN initiatives (i.e., profiling, hot spotting, impactable assessment, risk stratification). Participants will hear from two subject matter experts:

- Ruben Amarasingham, MD, MBA, President and CEO of Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation, Pieces Technologies Inc.
- Tracy Johnson, PhD, Director of Health Care Reform Initiatives for Denver Health.

This webinar is open to all states and interested parties.

[Register Now](#)

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### Open Position: Policy Analyst - Emerging Issues Team

The National Academy for State Health Policy is seeking a Policy Associate to join our Emerging Issues team. Work will focus on state health insurance and exchanges; prescription drug and other health care costs; as well as a wide array of issues that confront states. The Policy Associate is a mid-level position and applicants should have strong analytic and writing skills and ability to work closely with state officials and the NASHP team. Experience in state government, particularly working in a state based exchange, insurance department for legislative staff, is strongly preferred. This position may be located in either Portland, ME or Washington D.C.

[For more information or to see more health policy jobs](#)

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### National Academy for State Health Policy

*The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers who are dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health policy issues. For more information visit [www.nashp.org](http://www.nashp.org).*

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