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Subject: NASHP News: State of the State Marketplaces, Last Call for Rising Star Nominations

Newsletter

August 16, 2016

State of the State Marketplaces

- **California releases draft 1332 proposal.** The [proposal](#) details California's plan for expanding access to its exchange to undocumented immigrants.
 - **41 percent losing Medicaid in Connecticut get new coverage.** After a strong push from [Access Health CT](#), about 5,600 low-income parents and caregivers transitioned to new health coverage through the state exchange before losing their state-sponsored Medicaid at the end of July.
 - **How ACA marketplace premiums measure up to expectations** : KFF's latest [analysis](#) examines the reasons why premiums, even with proposed 2017 increases, are still lower than pre-ACA predictions. Los Angeles Times's Hiltzik [highlights](#) similar findings from a recent [Brookings study](#). Meanwhile, Bloomberg's McArdle speculates on [8 possible futures](#) for the exchanges.
 - **Where do 2017 increases stand so far?** See Charles Gaba's complete [tracker](#) of rate filings including projected overall, weighted average rate changes for the individual market. Similarly, KFF [examines](#) 2017 premium changes and issuer participation.
 - **Changes in ACA Individual Market Costs from 2014-2015: Near-Zero Growth Suggests an Improving Risk Pool**. A new [analysis](#) from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) show that nearly all states saw continued growth in Marketplace enrollment in 2016, suggesting continued risk pool improvement. This [data](#) provides the first snapshot of how cost evolved in the marketplace from 2014-2015.
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Last Call for Rising Star Nominations!

Help NASHP recognize new state health policy professionals working for state governments by submitting a nomination for our Rising Star award. The award strives to promote the accomplishments of those working in the field with seven years experience or less who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to promoting good state health

policy.

The award will be presented at the upcoming Annual Health Policy Conference October 17-19 in Pittsburgh. Recipient of the 2016 Rising Star award will receive an all expense paid trip to the conference.

Nominations for the award will be accepted [here](#) and can only be made by current state government employees.

All nominations are due by August 19, 2016. For complete information on the Rising Star Award visit our [website](#).

The NASHP Rising Star Award is sponsored by United Concordia Dental.

Don't Miss your Chance to Sponsor or Exhibit at NASHP's Annual Conference

Sponsor and exhibit at NASHP's 29th Annual State Health Policy Conference this October to get your brand in front of more than 700 of the nation's leading public and private sector health policy professionals, representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. NASHP offers a limited number of **sponsorship opportunities** and **exhibit spaces** to maximize visibility and ensure each company we partner with gets the attention of our audience. Limited opportunities remain, so be sure to confirm your **sponsorship or exhibit** today!

Webinar: State Strategies to Improve the Quality of Behavioral Health Care

Please **Register Now** for the final webinar in a series sponsored by CMS to highlight successes and lessons learned through the **Adult Medicaid Quality** (AMQ) Grant Program. Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington State will share promising practices and lessons related to implementing and sustaining quality improvement for adult Medicaid beneficiaries across the continuum of behavioral health care, including antidepressant medication persistence, increasing access to integrated care for persons with severe and persistent mental illness or substance use disorder through behavioral health homes, and reducing psychiatric rehospitalization rates.

State speakers include Rita Moore, Policy Analyst in the Office of Health Analytics, Oregon Health Authority; William McQuade, Senior Healthcare Policy Analyst with the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services; Steve Kogut, Professor, University of Rhode Island College

of Pharmacy; and Beverly Court, Research Manager, Research and Data Analysis Division, State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services. The [webinar](#) is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 7, 2016, from 1-2:30 p.m. ET.**

[Register Now](#)

Upcoming CMS Webinar: Linking & Merging Data Sources

In 2014, CMS launched a collaborative between the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) and the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) called the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP). The goal of IAP is to improve the care and health for Medicaid beneficiaries and reduce costs by supporting states' ongoing payment and service delivery reforms through targeted technical support.

As part of their efforts to roll out what they and their partner states have learned from the first year of the Reducing Substance Use Disorders program area, CMS invites you to join their next national dissemination webinar on **Wednesday, September 28, 2016 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM EDT**. In this webinar, entitled “***Linking & Merging Data Sources***”, participants will discuss merging Substance Use Disorder (SUD) related data sources with other state databases. Specifically, the discussion will focus on how using different data sources can provide additional insight on a patient's continuum of care when services are paid for by Medicaid and other state agencies. There will be three featured state partners on the webinar panel to discuss their efforts to actively link or merge data and field your questions. On this webinar:

- Connecticut will discuss how it is using distributed data networks to answer questions about their SUD population demographics, care outcomes and costs;
- Washington will discuss how it has designed meaningful measurement concepts that enable policy analyses, program evaluations, predictive modeling and performance management; and
- Oregon will share how it developed a system to combine SUD block grant data with Medicaid claims data to analyze treatment outcomes and share information with providers.

[Register Now](#)

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 or 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](#)

Open Position: Project Director - Chronic & Vulnerable Populations Team

The National Academy for State Health Policy is seeking an individual to join our growing Chronic and Vulnerable Populations (CVP) policy team as a Project Director. The Project Director will lead day-to-day operations for at least one major initiative for NASHP, and will join additional project teams as a senior team member. The primary focus of this work will be on state healthcare delivery system reforms that improve care delivery for chronically ill and vulnerable populations. [For more information or to see more health policy jobs](#)

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.

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