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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
Date: 4/25/2017 10:27:33 AM  
Subject: Health Care is Back on the Hill, CHIP FAQ, and more!

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## Newsletter

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April 25, 2017

### Health Care is Back on the Hill

As Congress returns to Washington this week health care is one of many pressing topics on the docket. It has been about a month since Republicans pulled their bill from the House floor and as things heat up again, two of NASHP's recent publications are particularly relevant. [Should Maine's Invisible High Risk Pool Law be the Model to Address Market](#)

[Stability Nationally?](#) and [High Risk Pools Deja Vu – Lessons from States, Questions for Policymakers](#). See all of [NASHP's work](#) surrounding repeal, replacement, or repair of the ACA.

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### Children's Health Insurance Program Frequently Asked Questions

A new [frequently asked questions](#) (FAQ) document provides an overview of CHIP – how it's funded, who is eligible, and what benefits are covered. It also highlights the key role CHIP plays in the children's coverage landscape and implications if funding is not extended. [Read more](#).

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## Lessons from States on Advancing Evidence-based State Health Policymaking for the Effective Stewardship of Healthcare Resources

An evidence-based approach to policymaking enables states to direct health care resources toward the clinical care and health service delivery models most likely to deliver the results state health policymakers seek: better health outcomes through the efficient

stewardship of public funds. As states face changing priorities and rising health care costs there is additional pressure to do more with less, making an evidence-based approach to health policymaking even more important. This [brief](#) and the [accompanying resources](#) provide states with actionable information on evidence-based policymaking including why states should work with evidence, key considerations for developing an evidence-based policymaking process, and strategies for patient and consumer engagement. [Read the full brief here](#) .

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### One-on-One State TA and Peer Learning Sessions on Parity Implementation Available for States (Registration for NQTL Peer Learning Session Now Open!)

CMS is offering a series of peer learning sessions and one-on-one technical assistance (TA) to assist states in implementation of the final parity rule. All states are encouraged to participate, regardless of where they are in the parity compliance process.

Peer learning sessions are moderated, virtual sessions that provide an opportunity for states to share key challenges and strategies, and to problem-solve with peers. Parity experts will facilitate peer learning sessions and answer questions, but active state participation is expected. Multiple time slots will be offered for each topic and pre-registration is necessary. To allow for a small group experience, participation in each group will be capped. States with multiple attendees should coordinate to register for one time slot per state. For additional information on topics and dates, please view the [full announcement](#) .

Registration is now open for the first peer learning session, which will focus on Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations (NQTLs). States will have the opportunity to brainstorm ideas as well as review tools for NQTL identification, collection, and analysis. To register and view suggested pre-reading materials, please view the full announcement.

In addition, states are encouraged to submit questions to the CMS Parity Team via email at [parity@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:parity@cms.hhs.gov) . Questions will be reviewed and responded to by the CMS Parity Team. More complicated or detailed inquiries will be triaged by the CMS Parity Team for phone consultation with a contractor and may lead to additional one-on-one coaching as needed.

[View full announcement](#)

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### Webinar: Assessing SUD Provider and Service Capacity

May 2, 2017 from 3:30 – 5:00 PM ET

As part of CMS's Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) Reducing Substance Use Disorder (SUD) program area, we are sharing what we have learned from working with states on SUD delivery system reform through our national learning webinars. We invite you to join our next national learning webinar on **Tuesday, May 2, 2017 from 3:30 – 5:00 PM EST** .

In the webinar entitled “[Assessing SUD Provider and Service Capacity](#),” featured states and federal partners will discuss strategies and methods to assess and monitor their provider and service treatment capacity for substance use disorder services, in particular services designed to address opioid use disorders. The strategies discussed on the webinar will be applicable to a wide variety of states interested in learning different approaches to conducting service capacity assessments as part of SUD provider network development planning efforts.

On this webinar, participants will learn about approaches for identifying and addressing provider network and service gaps from a representative from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). In addition, the webinar will feature two state speakers, one from Michigan Medicaid who will discuss the different data sets that the state has pulled together to develop a comprehensive picture of their SUD system; and speakers from Virginia Medicaid who will discuss how the state has assessed and developed its SUD provider network.

[Register Now!](#)

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## CMS IAP Data Analytics - All State Learning Webinar on Dashboard Creation

May 17, 2017 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

So, You Want to Build a Dashboard?

CMS will host a state learning webinar on **Wednesday, May 17th from 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET** for all Medicaid and CHIP agencies interested in learning how to develop data dashboards. Many state Medicaid agencies are interested in creating data dashboards, but do not know where to begin or how to design a dashboard to best meet their goals. This [webinar](#) will teach participants how to successfully create a dashboard that can be used to support Medicaid delivery system reforms.

In this [interactive webinar](#), states will learn about:

- The process of creating a data dashboard from planning stages through the design;
- Methods and approaches to building the right data team for creating a dashboard;
- Guidelines for designing a useful dashboard; and,
- Common pitfalls to avoid.

Additional presenters will share their experiences on dashboard creation. A representative from the Washington State Health Care Authority will discuss challenges and lessons learned from the creation of the Healthier Washington dashboard. In addition, speakers from the University of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Medicaid will share how their Medicaid-State University partnership supported the creation of the New Hampshire Medicaid Quality Information System and how similar state-university partnerships could benefit states' dashboard creation and support broader data analytic needs.

[Register Now!](#)

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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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