

From: Bryan Kost <kostbr@scdhhs.gov>
To: Bryan Kostkostbr@scdhhs.gov
Date: 1/14/2013 9:20:24 AM
Subject: Health Reform Stories
Attachments: JAMA V Fuchs How Why US differs from OECD.pdf
theonlyMedicaidMardiGrastreeinthecountry.jpg

1-National Academy of Sciences: Social determinants play key role in poor U.S. health outcomes vs. international peers

"inadequate health care systems, unhealthy behaviors, social and economic factors, and environmental factors, such as metropolitan landscapes that encourage car use rather than exercise"

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/CPOP/US_Health_in_International_Perspective/index.htm

2-... and why is U.S. health care different from OECD countries?

"Compared with the average OECD country, US health care expenditures differ in 3 important ways"

(JAMA article attached – first attachment)

3-Minority health gaps a complicated issue

"a deadline for eliminating disparities by 2010 has come and gone"

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20130113/NEWS05/301130040/Complex-issues-pose-challenge-closing-minority-health-gap>

4-Los Angeles' 'Bodega Clinicas' a potential patch for torn safety net care system?

"Health officials see in the clinics an opportunity to fill persistent and profound gaps in the county's strained safety net, including a chronic shortage of primary care physicians"

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/13/health/bodega-clinicas-draw-interest-of-health-officials.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130113

5-NYC ties doctors' income to quality of care

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/12/nyregion/new-york-city-hospitals-to-tie-doctors-performance-pay-to-quality-measures.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130112&r=1&

6-Congressional GOP eyes default, government shutdown as tools to force spending reductions

"The coming spending fights make the Christmastime tax increase battle seem like child's play"

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/behind-the-curtain-house-gop-eyes-default-shutdown-86116.html>

7-Taxing the flu vaccine may help national debt

"Legislation is moving through Congress to impose a 75-cent tax on new seasonal flu vaccines, as the government already does on existing vaccines"

http://m.washingtonexaminer.com/tax-on-flu-vaccines-helps-fund-national-debt/article/2517911?utm_campaign=Outbrain+Story+Box&utm_source=traffic.outbrain.com&utm_medium=internal_outb

8-Weak economy fuels temporary slowdown in nation's health care spending, but underlying unsustainable cost structure remains

"Hospitals, doctors and medical suppliers are frightened. They recognize that the free flow of money into health care won't continue"

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/01/10/2583597/samuels-on-are-we-taming-the-health.html>

9-Commonwealth Fund panel: Tie health spending to GDP growth to control costs

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/index.php/2013/01/commonwealth-fund-panel-proposes-options-to-slow-health-care-spending/>

10-SC's Medicaid bill pressing against other state priorities

"And he said while the state's roads are a legitimate issue, so is Medicaid. He said officials want \$150 million in added money just to maintain Medicaid where it already is"

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013301130041>

11-Post and Courier: Quit trying to nullify ACA in SC

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013301110008>

12-New U.S. Senator Tim Scott: Cost of health care 'getting ready to explode'

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013301110033>

13-Simple math: More on Medicare will fuel its cost explosion

"Medicare spending is the result of two factors: the amount spent per beneficiary and the number of people receiving benefits. Even Kost can follow that calculation, y'all"

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2013/01/13/The-Real-Reason-Medicare-Costs-Will-Explode.aspx#page1>

14-Reform Medicare, make it sustainable long-term

[http://links.heritage.org/hostedemail/email.htm?](http://links.heritage.org/hostedemail/email.htm?CID=14206024488&ch=1E29BBEA46F3FAF7E00B3EBCA9B48101&h=b0a431a158a209cf14d23905fdbfb4c1&ei=s2eFVJkNd)

[CID=14206024488&ch=1E29BBEA46F3FAF7E00B3EBCA9B48101&h=b0a431a158a209cf14d23905fdbfb4c1&ei=s2eFVJkNd](http://links.heritage.org/hostedemail/email.htm?CID=14206024488&ch=1E29BBEA46F3FAF7E00B3EBCA9B48101&h=b0a431a158a209cf14d23905fdbfb4c1&ei=s2eFVJkNd)

15-ACA threatens states' fiscal autonomy

"If governors elect to implement Obama's Medicaid expansion, they will permanently lock themselves into decades of even higher Medicaid spending, eventually crowding out other priorities like law enforcement, infrastructure and education"

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/editorial-obamacare-threatens-states-fiscal-autonomy/article/2518074#.UO7UTW99Kh0>

16-ACA Medicaid expansion: States must be realistic, not optimistic

"Unfortunately, we know that out-of-control federal spending can create uncertainty for these kinds of programs. If the federal government breaks its promise and begins to cut their reimbursement rate, we will be forced to scale back this expansion"

<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/01/11/obamacare-medicaid-expansion-states-should-be-realistic-not-optimistic/>

... speaking of optimistic ...

17-California Gov. Brown says state's deficit has disappeared

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/01/11/5106731/jerry-brown-says-californias-budget.html>

... but Left Coast deficit is easy to rebuild ...

18-California governor commits \$350 million for first two years of Medicaid expansion

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicaid/276553-calif-governor-says-medicaid-expansion-will-cost-350-million>

... especially if promised Medicaid federal match rate doesn't hold ...

19-Gov. Brown expresses concern over ACA Medicaid expansion funding certainty

"Brown said one of his chief fears about expanding Medicaid in the Golden State is that the feds won't live up to their generous funding promises, especially if Medicaid cuts get folded into a major national debt deal"

<http://www.politico.com/politicopulse/0113/politicopulse9808.html>

(scroll down in link for story, and Gov. Brown's budget proposal)

20-Report: New Hampshire hospitals would be hurt by Medicaid expansion

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/statenewengland/989989-469/report-medicaid-expansion-would-hurt-nh-hospitals.html>

21-Missouri senator says focus on job creation, not Medicaid economic stimulus

"Job creation and business expansion will be better for our state in the long run than throwing millions of dollars into our welfare system"

<http://www.semissourian.com/story/1930730.html>

22-Montana report examines Medicaid expansion's impact on that state

<http://www.ktvq.com/news/report-examines-mt-healthcare-and-medicaid-expansion/>

23-Why Georgia won't expand Medicaid

"Too much expense. Too few doctors. Too little trust in the feds"

<http://www.georgiahealthnews.com/2013/01/medicaid-expansion-danger-blessing/>

24-Oklahoma to look to Medicaid expansion alternatives

http://www.tulsaworld.com/opinion/article.aspx?subjectid=61&articleid=20130114_61_A9_Thesta220715

25-Arkansas leaders tackle potential Medicaid shortfall even as Medicaid expansion bill is proposed

<http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2013/jan/13/medicaid-biggie-20130113/?news-arkansas>

26-Arkansas House Speaker: We can't afford Medicaid expansion, y'all

http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=626712

27-Virginia governor wants Medicaid reform flexibility

http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/medicaid-expansion-would-save-initially-va-official-says/article_e379990f-75b1-5fc0-9931-241fa922c4fb.html

28-Expanding Medicaid would benefit New Jersey, advocates claim

<http://www.njspointlight.com/stories/13/01/09/advocates-contend-medicaid-expansion-would-benefit-new-jersey/>

29-NJ: Gov. Christie's SOS Address short on health care specifics, advocates also claim

http://www.app.com/article/20130113/NJNEWS11/301130035/Lack-Medicaid-online-gaming-talk-irks-backers?nclick_check=1

30-Idaho gov's SOS looks for state-based health care solution

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/idaho/2013/01/10/idaho-seeks-flexibility-in-medicaid-expansion-plan-but-feds-have-yet-to-weigh-in/>

31-Florida Gov. Scott revises estimated cost of Medicaid expansion

<http://www.bradenton.com/2013/01/13/4347380/scott-admits-faking-cost-to-florida.html>

32-... as Florida expansion debate focuses on costs

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/itsallpolitics/2013/01/10/169060335/estimated-costs-drive-debate-as-florida-weighs-medicaid-expansion>

33-New Mexico plans to expand Medicaid

<http://www.bizjournals.com/albuquerque/news/2013/01/09/new-mexico-to-join-medicaid-expansion.html?page=all>

34-SD governor unsure of feds' promise of Medicaid expansion match

<http://www.aberdeennews.com/news/sns-ap-sd--south-dakota-medicaid-20130110,0,1407348.story>

35-Weighing Medicaid expansion in Texas

<http://www.texastribune.org/2013/01/10/interactive-weighing-medicaid-expansion/>

36-Alabama Dems, NAACP rally for Medicaid expansion

<http://whnt.com/2013/01/11/local-naacp-democrats-to-rally-in-support-of-medicaid-expansion/>

37-Mississippi advocates push for Medicaid expansion

http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/article/20130108/NEWS01/301080013/Medicaid-gets-push-from-state-groups?nclick_check=1

38-Illinois Medicaid reducing scripts to contain costs

<http://www.sj-r.com/opinions/x1665861240/Our-Opinion-More-information-needed-on-Medicaid-prescription-cutbacks>

39-... as Illinois moves forward with Medicaid expansion

<http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2013/01/house-hhs-committee-passes-medicaid-expansion-to-include-childless-low-income-adults.html>

40-Kentucky Medicaid cutting primary care funding

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20130109/PRIME07/301090093/Medicaid-funding-being-cut-most-Kentucky-primary-clinics>

41-... as some in Kentucky say let's expand Medicaid

<http://www.kentucky.com/2013/01/10/2470568/expand-medicaid-ky-cant-afford.html>

42-Feds to Utah: Do exchange our way

<http://www.pewstates.org/projects/stateline/headlines/utahs-health-insurance-exchange-in-limbo-85899441992>

43-Buckeye state, feds fight over who swims in state's high-risk pool

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/feds-ohio-in-dispute-over-high-risk-pool-eligibility-86036.html?hp=I8>

44-NC Medicaid gets new Medicaid director from Bayou State

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/01/10/3778355/nc-health-agency-picks-la-official.html>

45-Small Massachusetts hospital's Medicare rural designation reaps state windfall; angers other states

"The entire way the payment system is now calculated has become so complex and so susceptible to gaming and manipulation that you'd play the game yourself if you were running a hospital, to make sure your reimbursements continue to go up"

<http://bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/01/13/states-planning-legislative-fight-for-massachusetts-medicare-windfall/HV4WGdUCSOISoTxIcbwSUL/story.html>

... in case you wondered ...

SC Medicaid the proud owner of the nation's only public health assistance Mardi Gras tree

"even Louisiana doesn't have one, we're told"

(photo attached)

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