

From: NASHP News <Newsletter@nashp.org>

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Subject: What's Next for the Individual Market?

Newsletter

March 28, 2017

[What's Next for the Individual Market?](#)

The rancor of the recent debate around repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), masked a point of agreement- despite progress, the individual market remains unaffordable for too many and sometimes limits plan choice. A [new blog](#) from NASHP's Trish Riley looks at how in a changing economy, more of us move from job to job, sometimes with periods of unemployment; many of us work part-time, some leave work to return to school mid-career, more of us are self-employed, – all without access to employer based coverage. Some retire early, before becoming eligible for Medicare. Assuring that the individual market remains affordable and stable is, then, an economic imperative for a changing American workforce. [Read the full blog](#).

[State Perspectives on Children's Coverage in the Changing Health Policy Landscape](#)

As federal policymakers consider significant changes to health coverage, the future of federal funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beyond September 2017 remains uncertain leaving children's coverage issues in the balance. To examine ways to ensure children's health

coverage needs continue to be met in the changing health policy environment, NASHP convened a group of CHIP and Medicaid officials in February 2017 to discuss key issues. A [new issue brief](#) highlights the main themes from the discussion, which included the importance of maintaining children's coverage gains, coverage affordability, pediatric-specific benefits, and high-quality care for children. [Read more](#).

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

This month's feature is a report from the [U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education](#) , entitled [The Integration of Early Childhood Data](#) . This report reinforces states' ability to integrate early childhood data to support children's learning and development. It describes how early childhood data can support informed decision-making and it provides best practices and state examples of linking early childhood data systems. Some states, such as Utah, have an existing integrated data system, often referred to as an Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) that collects, integrates, maintains, and stores data from early childhood programs across state agencies.

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 . The Healthy Child Development State Resource Center is supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

CMS Seeks Input on State Innovations in Pediatric Alternative Payment Models

An important opportunity to help inform and shape federal approaches to pediatric reforms is now available. Through a recently released [Request for Information](#) , CMS is seeking input on the opportunities and challenges to implementing system innovations for children and youth; state needs for support and flexibility to implement models such as Pediatric Accountable Care Organizations; and approaches that can help states best integrate health care among the many systems that serve children, including education, mental health and social services. CMS is exploring the development of a new pediatric health care payment and service delivery model "to facilitate strategies for timely and appropriate delivery of family-centered, community-based, linguistically and culturally appropriate, cost-effective, and integrated services to all children and youth covered by Medicaid and CHIP with an emphasis on those with or at-risk for developmental, social, emotional, or behavioral health challenges, intellectual or physical developmental delays or disabilities, and/or those with complex and/or chronic health conditions..." **Stakeholder comments are due to the agency on March 28, 2017 and should be submitted to HealthyChildrenandYouth@cms.hhs.gov . [Read more](#) .**

Webinar: Using Evidence to Achieve Effective State Health Policy

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET

Do you have to make coverage decisions, design delivery system change, and/or implement new delivery models while ensuring quality? Research evidence, including Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR), are valuable tools for state health policymakers to achieve those goals and to increase their chances of achieving the desired outcome: advancing policies with the ability to improve the health of the population served.

Though the future of health care reforms enacted under the ACA still remains uncertain and there could potentially be changes in U.S. health care delivery and coverage systems, state officials must continue to operate these programs as efficiently as possible. At this crucial juncture in U.S. health policy, reliable sources of evidence will be critical resources for state policymakers facing important decisions regarding health care delivery system and coverage policies.

This [webinar](#) , supported by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) will provide examples of how policymakers can, and are, using evidence including CER and PCOR to inform effective policymaking. This [webinar](#) will also highlight the important role consumers play in the evidence-based policymaking process, including strategies for improving consumer engagement.

Speakers:

- **Gary Franklin** , MD, MPH, Medical Director, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries; Research Professor, University of Washington; Co-Director, Washington Agency Medical Directors' Group
- **Kimberley Smith** , CAPM, Compliance & Stakeholder Relations Unit Manager, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
- **Margaret Guyer** , PhD, Director, Workforce Development, Organization: Department of Mental Health
- **Rob Walker** , External Consumer Engagement Liaison, Massachusetts Department of Mental

Moderator:

- **Greg Martin** , Deputy, Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

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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.

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