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Outreach

Communities Connecting Kids With Health Coverage

Governor's Budget Proposal

By Jen Johnson,
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Governor Tim Kaine presented his 2008-2010 Budget to the Joint Money Committees on December 17th. It included a number of health care proposals, based on recommendations from his Health Reform Commission. Here are some highlights of the Governor's budget for health care:

- Funding to expand FAMIS MOMs eligibility for prenatal coverage of women from 185% to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This expansion will cover about 400 additional women per year, and is funded by \$2.6 million in general funds and \$4.8 million in non-general funds over the biennium. Last year Governor Kaine also put enough money in his budget to increase eligibility to 200% FPL, but the legislature took some of that funding for other purposes and limited the FAMIS MOMs increase to 185% FPL.
- Additional funding for community-based health safety net providers to stabilize their operations, expand access to health care services, and coordinate services for uninsured Virginians. The increase of \$5 million each year (for a total of \$10 million) will go to Virginia Community Healthcare Association, Virginia Association of Free Clinics, and the Virginia Health Care Foundation, to be distributed throughout Virginia.
- Support for the Virginia Dental Health Foundation's (VDHF) Mission of Mercy Dental Project. VDHF is a nonprofit organization within the Virginia Dental Association. Funding of \$50,000 each year will be used to purchase dental equipment and supplies to provide dental services for Virginia's uninsured.
- Support for Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (VABCCEDP), also known as *Every Woman's Life*, which provides free screenings and diagnostic tests for breast and cervical cancer for uninsured women. Program funding will increase by \$300,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 and will provide screenings and tests to over 1,000 uninsured women ages 18 through 44.
- Funding for the "Virginia Share" Health Insurance program, a private health insurance product for uninsured employees of small businesses. The state will provide a premium subsidy of up to one-third, not to exceed \$75, of the monthly costs, with the employer and the employee each covering one-third of the remaining cost. Individuals with family incomes less than or equal to 200% FPL would be eligible. Initially, over 5,000 Virginians are expected to gain health insurance through the program. Governor Kaine's proposal includes funding of \$7.7 million over the biennium.

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Did You Know?

Want to Help Advocate for Health Safety Net Funding?

Attend Virginia Health Care Foundation's **Health Safety Net Legislative Day** on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 to advocate for support of Virginia's Health Safety Net and the eligibility expansion of pregnant women to 200% FPL. Legislative Day will begin at 8:30AM at the Library of Virginia and conclude following lunch at 1:30PM.

To register for this event, please contact Anne McCaffrey at (804) 828-5804 or annem@vhcf.org as soon as possible.



Update from DMAS



By Rebecca Mendoza,
Marketing &
Outreach Manager
Division of Maternal
and Child Health,
Virginia Department
of Medical Assistance
Services

New Outreach Materials

The “Staying Healthy” section of the FAMIS website is now available in Spanish. It includes information for parents on well-child checkups, immunizations, safety, nutrition, behavior and parenting, dental care, and special health care needs among other topics.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is pleased to unveil the newest FAMIS marketing tool...the “Staying Healthy” poster. Designed to capture parent’s attention, the poster promotes the “Staying Healthy” section of the FAMIS website. Posters are ideal for physician office waiting rooms, exam rooms, school nurse offices and community venues. Visit the FAMIS website, www.famis.org, to order these posters online.

Children’s Mental Health Program

Effective December 1, 2007, DMAS implemented a new children’s mental health program. This demonstration waiver program is intended to show that home and community based services are beneficial to children who would otherwise be residing in a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF).

Who is eligible?

The mental health program is available to children and adolescents under the age of 21 who:

- Have been in a PRTF for at least 90 days;
- Have a psychiatric diagnosis;
- Remain eligible for Medicaid after leaving the PRTF;
- Have a family (biological or foster) willing to take the child home;
- Have community services immediately available upon discharge from a PRTF;
- Will continue to meet the PRTF level of care; and
- Have a case manager once in the community.

What is covered?

- Transition coordination
- Environmental modifications
- Therapeutic consultation

- In-Home Residential Support
- Family and Caregiver training
- Companion services (consumer/agency directed)
- Respite (consumer/agency directed)
- Service facilitation for consumer-directed services only

How do you enroll?

The community services board (CSB) or Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) meets with the child/family to offer the program and determine eligibility. If children’s mental health services are chosen, a transition coordinator is selected to assist with the enrollment process. The family must complete Medicaid eligibility documentation for re-determination and notify the PRTF of the desire to obtain waiver services.

Comprehensive Service Plans and Individual Service Plans for specific services must be submitted to DMAS for review, and all services received under this waiver must be pre-authorized.

School Health Services

Virginia school divisions enroll with DMAS for the reimbursement of select health services for children with Medicaid or FAMIS coverage. DMAS covered services for children in special education are to be provided by the school division according to the child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) well-child screening services are available for the general fee-for-service Medicaid/FAMIS school population. Children enrolled in Medicaid or FAMIS Managed Care health plans must have health screenings coordinated through their health plan.

The following special education health services are covered for billing to DMAS by school divisions for children enrolled in Medicaid, Medicaid Expansion or FAMIS:

- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services;
- Skilled Nursing Services; and
- Psychiatric and Psychological Services.



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved two state plan amendments on June 28, 2007 adding coverage for certain services provided in schools. The state plan amendments are effective only for Medicaid and Medicaid-expansion children. A separate state plan amendment for FAMIS was denied, and is being resubmitted to CMS. The state plan amendments expand the following services billable to DMAS by school divisions, for children enrolled in Medicaid and Medicaid expansion and were effective July 1, 2003:

- Personal care assistance services;
- Audiology; and
- Medical evaluations.
- Transportation services were also approved with dates of service beginning July 1, 2006.

The state plan amendments also allow schools to bill DMAS for habilitative and maintenance therapies to children to correct or ameliorate a health condition. The amendment also acknowledges social workers as a billable provider of psychological services, and removes the requirement for physician orders for physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech language pathology therapy.

For more information on Medicaid coverage of school services, please contact Ashley Barton, Maternal and Child Health Coordinator at (804) 371-7824.

New Family Planning Program - *Plan First*

Plan First, Virginia's new family planning program begins January 1, 2008. The program is open to men and women who earn less than or equal to 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) – or \$1,132 monthly income for an individual. Individuals who have comprehensive health care coverage or have had a sterilization procedure are excluded from this program.

What is covered?

Plan First will only cover family planning services and supplies. Covered services include:

- Annual physical exams for men and gynecological exam for women (1 per 12 month period);
- Cervical cancer screening for women (1 per 6 months);
- Sexually transmitted infection testing;
- Laboratory services for family planning and sexually transmitted infection testing;
- Family planning education/counseling;
- Sterilization procedures;
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved

prescription contraceptives, including emergency contraception;

- FDA approved over-the-counter contraceptives; and
- Referrals to a PCP who may provide care for free or on a sliding fee scale for services not covered through *Plan First*.

How do you enroll?

An individual who meets the enrollment criteria can enroll in the program using the *Plan First* application. The completed application can be mailed, dropped off or faxed to the local Department of Social Services (DSS) in the city/county in which the applicant resides. Applications are available online at www.dmas.virginia.gov or at local DSS offices and Health Departments.

Because of requirements from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), women who are covered through Medicaid for Pregnant Women will need to complete the application for *Plan First* after the baby is delivered to participate in this program. While these women are still eligible for family planning services, they will need to actively complete the application in order to be enrolled in *Plan First*.

Women who are currently enrolled in the Family Planning Waiver Services have received a letter informing them of the changes to this program. These women do not need to take action and will continue to receive family planning benefits through *Plan First*.

CHIPAC

The Children's Health Insurance Program Advisory Committee (CHIPAC) has elected its leadership for 2008-2009. Judith Cash, Virginia Health Care Foundation was elected to a second term as Chair. Amy LaMagra, Virginia Community Health Care Association, will serve as Vice Chair. Many thanks go to Jill Hanken, Virginia Poverty Law Center, for her service as Vice Chair for 2006-2007.

The next CHIPAC meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2008 beginning at 1:00PM. The location of the meeting will be posted on the Commonwealth Calendar, www.virginia.gov/cmsportal2/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi and the public is welcome to attend.

Staffing Changes

Beth Worley, formerly a Marketing and Outreach Coordinator at DMAS, has now become the Marketing and Outreach Liaison. Beth's duties will include managing the FAMIS website and the annual Back-to-School outreach campaign.

A Letter from Jill Hanken, Chair, Virginia Coalition for Children's Health

Dear Friends,

Over the past nine years, the **Virginia Coalition for Children's Health (VCCH)** has advocated for many legislative and policy changes to improve Virginia's health insurance programs for children. VCCH has had more than 100 member organizations since it started and its work over the years has been recognized by many legislators.

The overall goals of VCCH are **1) to maintain and improve Virginia's health insurance programs for children; 2) to support the enrollment and retention of eligible children in those programs; and 3) to improve children's health by insuring access to quality services.** To that end, the VCCH is working on both the federal and state levels to meet these goals.

FEDERAL: On December 12, 2007, President Bush vetoed - for the second time - bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the SCHIP program. The contentious and ugly debate we've witnessed over SCHIP this year demonstrates the major challenges ahead of us in 2009.

I want to thank all of you for your work on SCHIP Reauthorization (so far)! Members of VCCH met in person with staffers for Virginia's Senators and U.S. Representatives early in the process, and we communicated with all of them on a regular basis. I was especially pleased that three Virginia Republicans in Congress supported the Reauthorization bills. We will continue to monitor developments on SCHIP and take necessary action on behalf of Virginia's low income children.

STATE: On the state level, the VCCH will support the health care initiatives included in the Governor's budget. These initiatives are important steps to improve access to health care in Virginia. While the Health Reform Commission's "Roadmap" recommended many other necessary reforms (such as expanding Medicaid and FAMIS - to cover more low income parents, higher income children, and dental care for adults) the Governor's initiatives get the car on the right road! In an extremely tight budget year, with many competing human services needs (e.g. mental health, pre-K, foster care), it is highly unlikely that the legislature will enact more far-reaching health proposals. We need to focus our efforts on supporting the Governor's proposals.

ACTION STEPS NEEDED:

1. In light of the above, the Virginia Coalition for Children's Health's top priority for 2008 will be **the expansion of FAMIS Mom's eligibility to 200% FPL**. Instead of a new sign-on process, please notify me if you do not want to be listed as a Coalition member this year. If your organization is not already on the Coalition and want to be, please contact me to be added. (*A listing of the 2007 Coalition Members and talking points on this topic are on the facing page.*)
2. Please plan to **attend one of the Public Hearings on the Governor's proposed 2008-2010 State Budget** and amendments to the 2006-2008 Budget:
 - **Thursday January 3, 2008 beginning at Noon:** George Mason University, Fairfax; Tidewater Community College, Norfolk; Campbell County Office Building, Rustburg; or Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands
 - **Monday January 14, 2008 beginning at 1:00PM:** General Assembly Building, House Room D, Richmond
 Please let me know if you can represent the Virginia Coalition for Children's Health at one of these hearings.
3. **Enjoy the holiday season with family and friends! And resolve to continue your work to improve access to health care throughout Virginia and the United States!**

Sincerely,

Jill Hanken

Phone: (804) 782-9430

e-mail: jill@vplc.org



VCCH Talking Points: 200% in 2008!

Expand Access to Prenatal Care for Low Income Women by Increasing Eligibility to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

The infant mortality rate in Virginia has exceeded the national rate for the past 22 years.

- Virginia's current infant mortality rate is 7.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- The national rate is 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Without adequate care and resources, uninsured pregnant women are at a greater risk of not carrying their babies to term or having a child of low birth weight.

Over a multi-year period, the Virginia General Assembly has improved access to prenatal care by implementing the FAMIS Moms program and increasing the eligibility from 150% FPL to the current level of 185% FPL.

Virginia's FAMIS program covers newborns with family income up to 200% FPL, and it is cost effective to provide prenatal care to the mothers of these babies.

- The average cost covered by taxpayer dollars for a baby carried to term is \$3,200.
- However, a premature baby who remains in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for an average of eleven days costs about 10 times more.
- Some of these babies will also have life threatening birth defects requiring more costly treatments and potentially lifelong expensive care.

Because women who receive prenatal care generally have better birth outcomes, prenatal care is extremely cost effective. By expanding coverage, Virginia could:

- ensure that all the mothers of FAMIS-eligible babies have access to prenatal care;
- avoid indigent care costs; and
- avoid the enormous short and long term costs associated with low birth-weight infants.

The Governor's Budget includes funding to provide coverage to 400 additional women each year.

For an investment of \$2.6 million in general funds, Virginia will receive \$4.8 million in federal funding for this initiative over the biennium.

Virginia Coalition for Children's Health 2007

- American Academy of Pediatrics – Virginia Chapter
- Blue Ridge Care Connection for Children
- Bon Secours Health System - Virginia
- Central Virginia Health Planning Agency
- Child Development Resources, Inc.
- CHIP of Roanoke Valley
- CHIP of Virginia
- Children's Hospital of Richmond
- Children's National Medical Center
- Consortium for Infant and Child Health (CINCH)
- Doral Dental USA, LLC
- Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA)
- Kool Smiles
- Law Center for Children – Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses
- March of Dimes
- Northern VA Access to Health Care Consortium
- Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Potomac Hospital
- Prevent Child Abuse Hampton Roads
- REACH
- School Nutrition Association of Virginia
- SIDS Mid-Atlantic
- Smart Smiles – Boys & Girls Club of Metro Richmond
- Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
- Success By 6 Partnership of Greater Richmond
- Virginia Academy of Family Physicians
- Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
- Virginia Association of School Nurses
- Virginia Community Healthcare Association
- Virginia Dental Association
- Virginia Dental Hygienists Association
- Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
- Va. Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND)
- Virginia Nurses Association
- Virginia Organizing Project
- Virginia Poverty Law Center
- Virginia Primary Care Association
- Virginia Rural Health Association
- Voices for Virginia's Children

The Continuing Saga of SCHIP...

As the Fall SUN Newsletter went to press in September, President Bush had just vetoed the first State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization bill. Since that time, Congress passed another SCHIP reauthorization bill by an overwhelming, but not veto-proof majority. On December 12, 2007, President Bush vetoed the second SCHIP reauthorization bill. House Democrats have scheduled a veto-override vote for January 23, 2008, and hope to persuade 23 Congressmen to change their votes. As an interim step, Congress has passed a long term continuing resolution that will continue to provide SCHIP funding to states through March 2009. This continuing resolution does contain additional funds for states

who are experiencing shortfalls, but will not provide Virginia with any additional funding.

How Does Virginia Fare?

While the program has not been reauthorized on a national level, Virginia has funds available to continue the current program through Spring 2009. Continue your efforts to identify and enroll eligible families, and also inform your partners that Virginia's FAMIS programs remain unaffected by SCHIP reauthorization issues. Please stay tuned for additional updates on SCHIP reauthorization as they become available.



New Project Connect Expansion



Recent studies indicate that there are one million Virginians without health insurance, nearly 100,000 of who are children currently eligible for state health insurance coverage. A \$300,000 grant from the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation to the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF) will fund new *Project Connect* outreach efforts in high-need communities to enroll uninsured children. To carry out the grant, the VHCF has issued a Request for Proposals to fund three new *Project Connect* sites in 2008. A recent Urban Institute study commissioned by the VHCF identified communities where high numbers of uninsured children eligible for public programs reside.

Identified high-need communities not currently served by a *Project Connect* site and eligible for this funding include:

- Campbell County
- Chesterfield County
- Danville City
- Fredericksburg City
- Henrico County
- Henry County
- Lynchburg City
- Martinsville City
- Montgomery County
- Pittsylvania County
- Radford City

- Roanoke City
- Spotsylvania County, and
- Stafford County

"Our hope is that this grant will give the children it touches the advantage of good health, as they work to meet other challenges in life," says Tom Byrd, president, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Virginia. VHCF Executive Director Debbie Oswald spoke to the timeliness of this opportunity. "Because Virginia has been so successful in enrolling eligible children in state coverage, many think that most eligible children are enrolled. Unfortunately, that's not true. At a time when everyone is looking for ways to increase access to health care, Virginia has a program that would cover 10 percent of its uninsured. We just need to let people know about it. This grant will mean significant advances in our ability to help provide Virginia's children with health care coverage."

A request for proposals was sent to more than 200 community agencies, and eleven agencies attended the mandatory pre-proposal workshop in December. Grant proposals are due to VHCF on January 23, 2008 at 5:00PM. Notification of grant awards will occur by March 3, 2008 with a goal of having new projects up and running by April 1, 2008.



Cover The Uninsured Week

April 27 - May 3, 2008

Planning an outreach event?
Holding an enrollment fair?

Why not have it during
Cover the Uninsured Week?

Information and ideas can be found at:
www.covertheuninsuredweek.org.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming months...

Did You Know?

Dental Access Resource

The Virginia Health Care Foundation, through a grant provided by Delta Dental, has recently added a dental access component to its website - www.vhcf.org/dental/index.php. This section provides access to a wealth of information on the dental health care safety net including:

Resources for Dental Safety Net Providers

- Information regarding list serves and online communities pertinent to the Dental Safety Net
- Links to an array of helpful national and state health, demographic and dental statistics
- Practice management resources (including a wonderful dental safety net clinic start-up manual!)
- Resources/Tip Sheets (information/handouts from past Tooth Talk meetings as well as other pertinent resources)
- A Job Bank - access to the Virginia Dental Association job bank
- Fundraising resources
- Loan repayment and scholarship information
- Links to a wide-variety of dental and hygienist associations and agencies

Listing of Virginia Dental Safety Net Providers

- Map highlighting locations of dental safety net clinics
- Alphabetical listing of Virginia Counties and Cities with dental safety net clinics

- Link to Doral Dental's website to search for a dentist that accepts Smiles For Children

Oral Health Information

- Fact Sheets detailing the importance of good oral hygiene/good oral health
- A link to a family-friendly website that has oral health games appropriate for preschool-middle school kids



SignUpNow Update

Since July 2007, more than 175 people have attended one of 5 SignUpNow workshops. 97% of attendees responding to evaluations continue to rate this workshop as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

Interested in attending a workshop?

SignUpNow is in the process of scheduling three additional trainings in 2008. Workshops will be held in Tidewater, Northern Virginia and a third location to be determined. For the most up-to-date training calendar, go to:
www.signupnowva.org/calendar.asp.

DMAS is sponsoring a series of special SignUpNow workshops for the business community. These sessions are about an hour in length and are geared to HR/benefits professionals, small business owners, health insurance brokers, and others in the business community interested in additional health insurance options for their employees. Please contact Jen Johnson at (804) 828-5804 or Jen@vhcf.org if you have contacts in the business community who may be interested in attending a session.

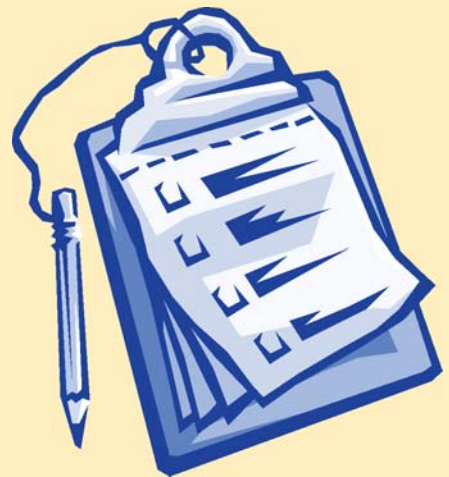


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