



**Monday, September 26, 2011
Capitol Annex, Room 171 - Frankfort, KY**

Attendees:

Luke Barlowe, KY Patient Advocate
Kip Bowmar, KY Home Health Association
Terry Brooks, KY Youth Advocates
Jim Cecil, KY Oral Health Coalition
Talley Cockerel, Norton Healthcare
Marie Cull, Cull, Hayden
Carolyn Dennis, Shaping Kentucky's Future Collaborative
Bob Gray, Taylor Gray Associates
Anne Hadreas, KY Equal Justice Center

Richard Heine, Friedell Committee
Christin Miller, Advocacy Action Network
Dustin Miller, Government Strategies
Jodi Mitchell, KY Voices for Health
Sheila Schuster, Advocacy Action Network
Bruce Scott, Mental Health America of KY
Laurel True, AARP/Seven Counties Services
Amy Wickliffe, McCarthy Strategic Solutions
Jordan Wildermuth, NASW-KY

Participating by Phone/Webinar:

David Allgood, Passport Health Plans
Gary Blalack, GlaxoSmithKline
Rachel Bledsoe, BK Public Affairs
Carl Boes, KY Assn of Regional Programs
Scott Brock, Bristol Myers Squibb
Steve Bryant, BK Public Affairs
Jan Clark, Child Advocacy Today
Sarah Cox, Cullari Communications Group
Molly Dobson, KIPDA
Susan Dunlap, UK HealthCare

Leonard Erskine, Vertex
Amanda Heuser, KY Voices for Health
James Higdon, MMLK
Bob Kearley, Sunovian
Ben Keaton, BK Public Affairs
Deb McGrath, Epilepsy Foundation
Heidi Schissler, KY P&A
Therese Sirles, Kosair Children's Hospital
Eva Stahl, Community Catalyst

The draft Meeting Summary from the August 22, 2011 Conference Call circulated via email and KVH partners were asked to review and send revisions by September 30, 2011 to Jodi Mitchell.

PRIORITY: Improve the health of Kentucky's children

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children

Terry Brooks provided background on the evolution of the Blueprint as a cohesive agenda for the next decade. The three major areas of emphasis are: fair opportunities for every child, safe and healthy families and a fair deal for working parents. The Blueprint plans to focus on "the high price of being poor" in 2012. In doing so, the Blueprint plans to work on legislation to introduce an Earned Income Tax Credit in Kentucky. They also plan to work to "embolden childcare" by helping low income folks access high quality childcare.

Under the fair opportunities for every child priority area of the Blueprint the group plans to work with the Governor's Task Force, look closely at the issues surrounding status offenders, and alternative education programs. Currently, Kentucky locks up more juveniles than all states, except Washington, and studies have shown that this is the most expensive and least effective approach. Currently in KY, there is a 4 to 1 disproportionate incarceration rate based on race.

Under the safe and healthy families priority area, the group plans to address the high rate of abuse and neglect and to monitor the new managed care system.

Sheila Schuster noted that KVH has spent a good deal of time looking at upcoming transition to Medicaid managed care and asked what specifically the Blueprint work group will be looking at and monitoring. Terry responded that specifics have yet to be worked out. Both Terry and Jodi expressed concerns about the very short turnaround time that the Cabinet has given to advocates when asking for help in reviewing Medicaid member communication. KVH will draft a comment solicitation form for advocates and individual to share concerns in relation to Managed Care implementation.

Laurel True shared that Seven Counties Services has been talking with teachers, principals, and school counselors and has been hearing that behavior and self-esteem issues are the leading problems in schools. Laurel asked Terry what type of involvement KYA and the Blueprint folks have had with school employees and Terry responded that they have primarily been communicating with professional organizations.

Anne Hadreas asked when the final work plan will be released for folks to look over and sign on. Terry stated that the plan is to release it the day after the election for both strategic and tactical reasons.

Coordinated School Health – Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Amanda Heuser shared that she has been working with Melissa McDonald from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation in southeastern Kentucky to help schools meet the standards set in the Coordinated School Health including review and evaluation of school wellness policies. Richard Heine asked how this work relates to the KVH Children's Health Task Force. Jodi responded that Amanda and the Alliance are working in conjunction with the Coordinated School Health folks at the Dept. of Public Health/ Dept. of Education.

PRIORITY: Assure that all Kentuckians have access to high quality, affordable health care

Medicaid Managed Care Update

The implementation date has been delayed and is now set for November 1, 2011. Sheila also shared that she is hearing that a whole lot of Medicaid recipients have received NO communications from Medicaid. It is rumored that as many as 100,000 letters (1 in 5) have been returned to the Cabinet with insufficient addresses.

Jodi shared that Rich Seckel has been reviewing many of the documents to go out to Medicaid recipients to make sure that they are at or close to a 6th grade reading level. Anne Hadreas shared that she is hearing from a lot of folks who aren't eligible are getting letters about Medicaid managed care. This is causing a great deal of confusion.

Richard Heine asked if there is someone at the Cabinet who is handling these types of issues. Sheila responded that currently there is an 800 number that Medicaid folks are instructed to call with questions but that it is outsourced and staffed by folks who for the most part cannot answer specific questions. Sheila also stated that one of the issues with this 800 number is that if you call back you more than likely do not get the same person. She stated that to her knowledge there is not an Ombudsman for this or any one "go to" person. Richard asked if this is something that KVH should encourage. Bob Gray suggested asking who the LRC Constituent Services folks are told to contact. Luke Barlowe indicated that he was told that Angela Hockensmith was LRC's Cabinet contact – 502-564-7042. The ombudsman number is 800-372-2973.

Kip Bowmar shared his concern that the MCOs not be able to change Medicaid Regulations by setting contract provisions. He shared that currently Coventry and KY Spirit have set limits on home health visits. Sheila cautioned that the approach taken to prevent this not cause the MCOs to make benefits more restrictive.

KVH will draft a comment solicitation form for advocates and individual to share concerns in relation to Managed Care implementation.

Marie Cull shared with the Coalition that she represents PhRMA and that PhRMA has worked very hard so that Medicaid recipients can get the proper medications. She shared that PhRMA has many concerns around the formularies that have been put forth by the MCOs. She shared that KY Spirit will have a local formulary that will be crafted from their national formulary and that all three MCOs will rely heavily on generics. She has asked the Cabinet and they don't know how the MCO P&T Committees will interface with the KY P&T Committee. Deb McGrath echoed the concerns about changing medications and concern over interfacing of the P&T Committees.

Marie said that she will follow up with acting Commissioner Wise and schedule a meeting with the new Pharmacy Director. Marie is also trying to schedule meetings with all three MCOs and Passport to discuss the open meeting laws. Steve Bryant asked about what the next steps for the coalition would be and Marie responded that it would be nice to have patient advocate groups raise similar concerns and seek to preserve provider treatment protocols.

Sheila expressed concerns about denials with regard to step therapies and how the MCOs are licensed by the state. Marie responded that she was not sure if the MCO's are subject to KRS 304.

Federal Update

Eva Stahl from Community Catalyst shared that My Medicaid Matters held a disabilities rally on September 21 in DC and that nearly 100,000 people participated. The group focuses on health, independence, family and jobs issues. Sheila asked if there was only one point that really resonated, what it was and if Eva could share that information.

Eva shared that the Super Committee will need to cut \$1.2 trillion from the budget and she warned that there will be no restrictions on where the cuts will come from. They will release their report on November 23, 2011. October 14th is the deadline for House and Senate members to submit changes the Super Committee's plan. It is expected that both chambers will vote on this matter on December 23, 2011.

Exchange Information

Jodi shared that Exchange Comments are due on September 28, 2011. KVH will submit comments and is currently reviewing others' comments. KVH has signed on to national state organization sign on letter facilitated by Center for Budget Policy and Priorities.

Streamlining Medicaid Eligibility

Jodi has met with Kathy Frye at the Cabinet regarding the states plans to create a seamless enrollment system for Medicaid as well as other social programs. Kentucky has applied for money for online applications. It has been stated that an update to the Medicaid eligibility system will be the first task. Currently, no vendor has a product which meets all of the required criteria set forth by the Federal government. The Cabinet has submitted a Capital Budget Request for the 90/10 match. Bob Gray asked about the amount of the request. It was indicated that it was \$50M.

Rate Review

Jodi provided an update on federal dollars to states to crack down on unreasonable health insurance rate hikes. The KY Department of Insurance has hired 6 full time employees, developed website for consumers, created FAQ page and created a question submission form.

Enroll America Update

Jodi shared that Enroll America launched officially last week. The goal is to enroll the uninsured and to simplify the enrollment process. KVH has helped create the beginnings of an Enroll Kentucky group that will mirror the national group. Richard Heine asked if Enroll America/Kentucky will actually be enrolling folks. Jodi said that the primary role of the organization is as an advocacy group – to share best practices. Enroll America will host a webinar on Wednesday, September 28, 2011.

PRIORITY: Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health care for Kentuckians

Care About Your Care

Jodi attended the Care About Your Care event in Cincinnati, an effort by Robert Wood Johnson foundation to help consumers/patients understand the value and how to attain quality healthcare. The Health Collaborative in Cincinnati launched Your Health Matters website that is an interactive source of information for consumers.

PRIORITY: Make prevention a priority for Kentucky's health policies and programs

Smoke Free KY Coalition

Amanda Heuser attended the most recent Smoke Free training and said that attendees discussed what local policymakers are doing around smoke free issues and identified local advocates to support the cause.

Coalition Updates

Sheila shared that the Board Nominating Committee is working hard and will have a slate of nominees in the next month to fill 6 board seats. Carolyn Dennis stated that they have received 16 strong nominations.

Please send all Speakers' Bureau Requests to Jodi Mitchell. For a list of past and future engagements, <http://kyvoicesforhealth.com/speakersbureau.html>

Calendar Postings – send to kvhexec@kyvoicesforhealth.org

Jodi shared that there are now over 200 KVH endorsing/member organizations. The Board has approved a dues structure and that membership dues will start being assessed to help diversify KVH's funds. Sheila added that to date PWF has provided KVH's only source of funding and that money will be gone in mid-February 2012. The coalition doesn't want to lose anyone as a member and is more than willing to work with folks if they have concerns about paying dues.

Laurel asked when the Long Term Care Issue paper might be ready. Bob answered that he is developing and information request for the Cabinet. He is hoping to have a paper to release in November but wants to make sure that he is able to include trend data.

Anne announced that the KY Equal Justice Center has just launched a Facebook page and asks that everyone "like" them.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2011 from 1:00-3:00 PM in Capitol Annex Room 171.