

Children/Youth Health Advisory Committee

Monday – Aug. 26, 2002

Meeting Minutes

Present:

Twila Brown, Dept of Public Health
Sai-Ling Chan-Sew, Dept of Public Health
Lucy Crain, San Francisco Children and Families Commission
Frances Culp, Dept of Public Health
Pat Evans, Dept of Public Health
Jean Fraser, San Francisco Health Plan
Barbara Garcia, Dept. of Public Health
Iman Nazeeri-Simmons, Dept. of Public Health
Marlo Simmons, Adolescent Health Working Group
Rick Spear, San Francisco Children and Families Commission
Samantha Stephen, Dept. of Public Health

Regrets:

Nicolette Collins, DPH
Elena Fuentes-Afflick, SFGH/UCSF
Janet Shalwitz, Adolescent Health Working Group
Shannon Thyne, SFGH/UCSF

1. Introductions

Barbara Garcia began the meeting with introductions.

2. Purpose of Committee

- Goal: Barbara Garcia revisited the goal of the committee. She explained that the Prop 10 Commission provided funds to the San Francisco Health Plan for the implementation of Healthy Kids. The Commission required that SFHP convene a provider advisory group for the purpose of developing recommendations to enhance services to children and link medical services. The recommendations are to be shared with SFHP, pediatricians, and other health care providers. The Committee has decided to focus on access issues.
- Upcoming Meetings: Barbara explained that meeting topics agreed upon by the group were listed in the minutes and the schedule was on the agenda. Frances explained that although the agendas read “TBD” for November and December’s meetings – they were tentatively set for Developmental Assessments in November and Mental Health and Substance Abuse in December.

3. Presentation – Follow the Money (Jean Fraser)

Jean’s presentation covered a variety of health coverage programs and described the funding mechanism. Programs covered in the presentation were Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids,

Healthy Workers, AIM, MRMIP, CHDP, EPSDT, CHIP, County Services, FQHCs, and DSH payments. The following points were made and questions asked regarding the presentation:

Medicare:

Samantha - Medicare also doesn't cover dental.

Medi-Cal:

- Barbara - Medi-Cal pays providers less than 30 cents on the dollar.
- Jean – there is great variation in Medi-Cal rates, some are very, very low and below cost and others are OK. A generalization may miss this point.
- Lucy – Medi-Cal for Children provider rates are significantly lower than what market would bear.
- Twila – Foster children are in a “voluntary” aid code.
- Iman – Do Medi-Cal eligibles automatically get Denti-Cal. Jean answered Yes.
- Rick – Does SFHP connect at all with Denti-Cal? Jean explained that it is totally carved out and they have no real connection to Denti-Cal for Medi-Cal recipients. SFHP tried to make a list of dentists in SF that would accept Medi-Cal patients, since there seemed to be some problems, but the providers didn't want a list out there. Samantha Stephen explained that DPH did manage to make a list, but it needs updating.
- Rick – When family income fluctuates and they become ineligible for one program but eligible for another, is this seamless to the family? Jean said that it was not and that families have to be proactive in completing the paperwork for each program as their eligibility changes. There have been attempts at improving this process on the State level, but it remains complicated.

Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM)

- Pat – AIM enrollment is so low because Kaiser is the only provider.
- Jean – Enrollment is so low that no other health plans can afford to provide coverage. It is a “chicken and egg” question in that if enrollment increased, other health plans would participate and if other health plans participated enrollment would increase.

Children's Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP)

- Twila – Tobacco funds are supposed to pay for treatment after a CHDP screening identifies something that needs follow-up. In San Francisco these funds go to San Francisco General Hospital for treatment done at the County level. Twila also explained that the County administers the CHDP program but there is no County fund match. EPSDT on the other hand is a mix of County/State/Federal funding.
- Pat – CHDP is important because it covers undocumented immigrant children who have access to no other health program.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)

- Twila – The EPSDT target population differs from CHDP. EPSDT is for Medi-Cal enrolled children while CHDP is for Medi-Cal eligibles and undocumented children. Providers also use the PM-160 form for EPSDT services. Case management is initiated if child is diagnosed on this form with a condition that necessitates these services.
- Sai-Ling – EPSDT Mental Health Supplemental Services are also called “compensatory Medi-Cal.”
- Lucy – CHDP can be thought of as “EPSDT light,” as it essentially provides only the screening part of the federal requirements only-but to a wider target population.

California Children's Services (CCS)

- Twila – CCS rates are better now than other Medi-Cal rates, but this may change in the new State budget. CCS also provides Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy for children at no cost and there is no financial eligibility for it. EPSDT Supplemental Services are covered for children with special needs.
- Lucy – CCS covers children diagnosed only with a CCS eligible condition.

Pat commented that Family PACT was another program that would have been good to add to the presentation.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

- Pat – FQHC payments are set to sunset in the near future.
- Barbara – Many community clinics in San Francisco are federally qualified (FQHC).

Disproportionate Share Hospitals (DSH)

- Pat – DSH payments have been reducing for some time.

Frances explained that the eligibility criteria were not covered in this presentation as it would have been too long. The Bringing Up Healthy Kids (BUHK) Coalition created a booklet with all of these programs and she will bring to the next meeting.

Barbara explained that the next meeting is on September 23. This meeting will focus on Dental Issues. Frances said that Bob Isman, from Denti-Cal is coming, and Samantha Stephen from SF DPH's Dental Program. If the group has any questions that the presenters should know in advance, they should e-mail them to Frances.