



# HEADLINE DC

JULY 15, 2011

## HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **FY 2012 Appropriations:** House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee to mark up bill July 26; full Committee scheduled for August 2. *Call your Representative to oppose draconian cuts in Medicaid, mental health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and developmental disabilities services.*
- **ACA Appeals Court Gives First Round to Administration:** A 3-judge appeals panel (6<sup>th</sup> circuit, Ohio) held it constitutional for the to require that Americans obtain health insurance. Next come opinions from Richmond, VA, and Atlanta, GA appeals courts.
- **Debt Ceiling:** The fate of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other funds to individuals and states hangs in the balance as the August 2 deadline for raising the debt ceiling approaches. Will politics trump policy?
- **Constitutional Balance Budget Amendment:** NACBHDD has joined 247 organizations in writing to policymakers to vote against the upcoming House vote on a proposed constitutional balanced budget amendment.

## AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **New Proposed HHS Rules on State Health Exchanges:** Comment now on (1) rule outlining simplified framework for States to build Insurance Exchanges and (2) rule setting standards on reinsurance, risk corridors and risk adjustment. Comment period open for 75 days from June 11. For more, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110711a.html>
- **More for Dual Eligibles:** On July 8, CMS announced 3 initiatives to help improve the quality and lower the cost of care for the those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid: (1) demos to test 2 new models of coordinated care; (2) demos to let people in nursing homes get treatment without unnecessary hospitalization; and (3) a TA center to help states improve care for high-need/high-cost beneficiaries. For more, go to: [http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact\\_sheets.asp](http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp).
- **New Report on State-level MI/SA:** SAMHSA has released 2008-09 state estimates for 25 measures of substance use and mental disorders and changes from previous years. For more, go to: <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA11-4641>

## ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:** *Does Use of EHRs Help Improve Quality?* Summarizes a study to help physicians leverage electronic records to improve patient care. Go to: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/72480af4qehr201106.pdf>
- **George Washington University:** *Medicaid Works: A Review of How Public Insurance Protects the Health and Finances of Children and Other Vulnerable Populations.* Go to: <http://www.atlanticphilanthropies.org/sites/default/files/uploads/MedicaidWorks.pdf>
- **National Institute for Health Care Management:** *Understanding U.S. Health Care Spending* examines examine why more than \$8,000 per person is spent on health care and the factors driving spending growth. Go to: <http://nihcm.org/images/stories/NIHCM-CostBrief-Email.pdf>

## ETCETERA

- **SAMHSA 10x10 Wellness Campaign Town Hall Meeting:** Join a webinar, Thursday, July 28, 3:00-4:30 pm, EDT, with speakers on the 8 dimensions of wellness and on planning for National Wellness Week (September 19-25, 2011). Register at <http://www.promoteacceptance.samhsa.gov/10by10/training.aspx> by July 27.
- **Rosalyn Carter Mental Health Symposium Slated:** Behavioral health of children exposed to trauma will be the focus of the 27<sup>th</sup> mental health policy symposium. Contact the Carter Center for more information or just stay tuned.

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