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State Health Access Reform Evaluation



NEWS FROM GRANTEES

SHARE Grantees Lisa Dubay and Jenny Kenney, and RWJF Senior Vice President for Health Care John Lumpkin Attend CHIP Signing

Lisa Dubay, Jenny Kenney, and John Lumpkin were on hand for the signing of the CHIP bill on February 4, 2009. "This legislation is important because it lays the groundwork for improving the health and wellbeing of our nation's children by increasing their access to affordable insurance coverage and improving the quality of the care they receive," said Kenney. "President Obama was clear that reauthorization of the CHIP program, while critically important for children, was a down-payment on health care reform and universal insurance coverage not only children but also for their parents and other adults," said Dubay. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the \$32.8-billion bill will enable states to cover more than four million uninsured children by 2013. Please click [here](#) for a summary of the bill and [here](#) for a picture of Dubay and Kenney at the signing.

SHARE Grantees Michael Cousineau, Gregory Stevens, and Albert Farias Release Issue Brief with Early Findings

Principal Investigator Michael Cousineau and his team released early findings from their SHARE project, "Evaluating the impact of outreach and enrollment strategies in California." Their issue brief, "Use of Outreach and Enrollment Strategies in California" documents the outreach and enrollment strategies targeting children adopted by various counties in the state. The brief identifies 10 types of outreach and enrollment strategies and charts how the strategies differed over time. To read the full brief, please click [here](#).

SHARE ACTIVITIES

SHARE Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone who participated in the SHARE Annual Grantee Meeting in Philadelphia. The presentations were very informative. It is great to hear more about state reform activities and what we might learn from all of your rigorous research. We will be contacting you about potential papers and the opportunity to publish a group of papers in a special-issue volume of Health Services Research. Thanks to Jose Escarce for his interest and assistance! We will let you know when the presentations are posted to the SHARE website. Thanks again for a great meeting.

Call for Abstracts for APPAM Research Conference

The Annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference call for abstracts is now open. The theme for the conference is "Evidenced Based Policy Making in the Post-Bush/Clinton Era" and it will be held November 5-7, 2009, in Washington D.C. Please click [here](#) for the full call for abstracts. Abstracts need to be submitted by Tuesday, March 10, 2009. If you want to be considered for a SHARE panel, please contact Elizabeth Lukanen as soon as possible (elukanen@umn.edu).

NASHP Annual Conference

The National Academy for State Health Policy's Annual State Health Policy Conference will be held October 5-7, 2009, in Long Beach, California. We hope to have a SHARE panel at the conference. Please click [here](#) for registration information.

Lynn Blewett Presents on Health Policy Topics in Kansas and Minnesota

SHARE Director Lynn Blewett visited the Kansas Health Institute in Topeka, Kansas on January 23, 2009, to present SHADAC's new state-level estimates of "underinsurance." Lynn was invited by Gina Maree, Director of Health Care Finance and Organization of the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), to be the keynote speaker for a meeting on issues related to those who have health insurance but whose coverage is inadequate to meet their health care needs. To learn more, please visit Lynn's [blog](#) or view her [presentation](#).

SHARE is a National Program Office funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund, synthesize and disseminate evaluations of state health reform. Periodically, SHARE will send an e-newsletter outlining upcoming events, grantee activities and updates on our funded projects. For more information visit: <http://www.shadac.org/share/>.

On February 10, 2009, Lynn testified to a joint hearing of the Minnesota House Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight Committee and the Minnesota House Health Care and Human Services Finance Division. The hearing focused on “The economic impact on Minnesota’s health care delivery system.” Lynn presented information on the impact of Minnesota’s current economy on the non-profit hospital industry, the number of uninsured, public programs, and increased out-of-pocket spending. To learn more, please visit Lynn’s [blog](#) or view her [presentation](#).

OTHER NEWS

Maximizing Enrollment for Kids Awards Grants to 8 States

As part of a 4-year initiative to ‘maximize enrollment’ in Medicaid and CHIP for eligible children, the Maximizing Enrollment for Kids program selected 8 state agencies to receive up to \$1 million in grant money. The grants, along with significant technical assistance, will help the states to strengthen state systems, policies, and procedures and develop new strategies and approaches to ensure that eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The following states received grants: Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Maximizing Enrollment for Kids is a \$15 million initiative of the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation \(RWJF\)](#) launched in June 2008 and directed by the [National Academy for State Health Policy \(NASHP\)](#). For more information about the program and the awards, please click [here](#).

State Coverage Initiatives Launches New Web Site

State Coverage Initiatives (SCI), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation administered by AcademyHealth, provides timely, experience-based information and assistance to state leaders in order to help them move state health reform forward. In an effort to increase its ability to offer an integrated array of policy and technical assistance services and products to state leaders, SCI has launched its newly redesigned website, www.statecoverage.org, with an array of features including:

- Information on various coverage strategies <<http://www.statecoverage.org/node/23>> employed by states to address their uninsured populations including public programs, reinsurance, high risk pools, limited benefit plans, group purchasing arrangements, dependent coverage, and other state-specific strategies,
- State profiles <<http://www.statecoverage.org/node/24>> that provide an overview of all state's coverage environments and available information on all the known strategies employed by each state,
- More than 800 resources <<http://www.statecoverage.org/resources/list>> — publications, state reports, presentations, and more—with information on major coverage and reform topics, and
- An easy way for state officials to request technical assistance <<http://www.statecoverage.org/support>>.

The new site also includes an online version of the State of the States <<http://www.statecoverage.org/node/1316>> report. Visit www.statecoverage.org <<http://www.statecoverage.org/>> for more information.

If you have news items that you want us to highlight, please send them to SHARE Deputy Director, Elizabeth Lukanen, MPH at elukanen@umn.edu.