






**children's**  
Dental Health Project

*New Opportunities & Incremental Steps towards Oral Health Reform*

### Overview


- Clarify opportunities recently available for State dental programs authorized by Congress
- Review opportunities available in States to advance oral health
- Discuss the current health reform efforts

### State Budgets!

2009: 42 states & DC, mid-year shortfall of \$53 bill  
 2010: 44 States anticipate deficits  
 ARRA: \$135-\$140 billion to states → 40% of deficits  
 Health: approx. 14% of state budgets (\$140 bill)

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities




### Recent Opportunities from Congress

- CHIP Reauthorization
- Economic Recovery






### **NEW** CHIP Dental Provisions

- Dental coverage guarantee
- Dental wrap-around option
- Quality assurance
- New parent education
- Mandatory performance reporting
- Allowance for public-private contracting
- GAO study on dental access and providers
- Mandatory information for beneficiaries






### CHIP Dental Benefit

Definition of dental coverage:  
*"necessary to prevent disease and promote oral health, restore oral structures to health and function, and treat emergency conditions."*

Benchmark Plans

- FEHBP most frequently for dependent dental coverage over previous 2 years
- State employee dependent dental coverage that is selected most frequently in the previous 2 years, or
- Commercial dental insurance with the largest non-Medicaid enrollment of dependents

Implementation: October 1, 2009





### CHIP Dental Wrap

"Wrap" – state option to provide dental coverage for CHIP with private medical but no dental insurance

Knowing: for every 1 child without medical insurance there are nearly 3 without dental insurance = opportunities to expand access to care

Implementation: April 1, 2009



### Economic Recovery (Stimulus Pkg.)

**\$87 billion:** Medicaid FMAP increase

**\$1 billion:** Prevention & Wellness Fund  
→ \$650 million community prevention

**\$2 billion:** Community Health Centers

**\$500 million:** Health & Public Health Workforce



### Medicaid FMAP Increase

**\$87 billion:** Medicaid FMAP increase

Across-the-Board Increase: 6.2% point increase

Economic Recovery Period:

October 2008 – December 2010

Extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) through December 2010

Extend moratoria on specific Medicaid regulations



### Cost Efficient State Opportunities

*What doesn't cost (much) money?*

- Prevention—sealants and school programs
- New look at water fluoridation
- Workforce—new providers, changes in supervision or scope of practice
- Service delivery—teledentistry, clinic efficiency
- Restructuring Medicaid dental funds
- Medicaid administrative streamlining



### Momentum in Oral Health Policy

Dental Legislation resulting from D. Driver



### Talk about Health Reform...

Discussions on Capitol Hill:

- Delivery systems
- Investment in public health
- Prevention
- Coverage & Standards
- Financing & Cost

Timing:

- Portions of a bill are currently being drafted – Senate moving faster
- Target for intro this Spring
- Desire for *something* by Fall





## Current Opportunities in Health Reform

- Promoting State successes in oral health
  - prevention cost savings
  - systems integration
  - public/private partnerships
- Highlighting health reform efforts in oral health
  - what can be learned from prior success
  - replicable community innovations
- Demonstrating financial impact
  - evidence of cost effective programs/changes
  - data on quality and cost connections
- Building an oral health consensus



Questions?



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