



HEADLINE DC

AUGUST 1, 2011

HILL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **Debt Ceiling-Budget Snafu:** Brinkmanship continues as Headline goes to press. Bets are we won't default, but cuts are likely.
- **FY 2012 Funding:** The House Labor/HHS Appropriations Committee postponed mark-up of FY 2012 funding until after August recess (aka district work period). No new date is scheduled.
- **ACA Hearing:** Senate Health Education, Labor and Pensions Committee holds a hearing August 2: "Health Reform and Health Insurance Premiums: Empowering States to Serve Consumers".
- **Dual Eligibles:** On August 3, the Senate Finance Committee convenes a hearing on improving care for Medicare-Medicaid dual eligible, with CMS witnesses, among others.
- **Legislative Mark-up:** The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee delayed mark-up of S. 1094 (reauthorize Combatting Autism Act) and S. 955 (reauthorize payments to children's hospitals with graduate medical education programs). On 7/28, the parallel House Committee approved the children's hospital measure (H.R. 1852).

AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **CMS's Next ACO Session:** The second Accelerated Development Learning Session to help providers build an action plan for better coordinated care as an ACO will be held in San Francisco, CA September 15-16. For more information, or to register, go to: <https://acoregister.rti.org>.
- **Justice Department Settles Vets PTSD Suit:** In a victory for mental health advocates and veterans, over 1,000 vets with PTSD from service in Iraq/Afghanistan between 12/02-10/08 will receive lifetime disability retirement benefits as the result of their disorders.

ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **Los Angeles Economic Roundtable:** Using California as a model, *Dividends of a Hand Up* describes how moving people with disabilities onto SSI saves scarce county dollars and creates new jobs. Go to: <http://www.economicrt.org>.
- **U.S. PIRG Education Fund:** *Building a Better Health Care Marketplace* details issues when creating insurance exchanges: accountability and transparency, power to negotiate, cost and quality innovation, stability, consumer-friendly design, and coordination with public programs. Go to: <http://www.uspirg.org/uploads/b0/c3/b0c389deaa93a872b358cd45a69b5133/Building-a-Better-Health-Care-Marketplace-vWeb.pdf>
- **State Health Access Data Assistance Center:** *A Framework for Tracking the Impacts of the Affordable Care Act in California* recommends measures to monitor health reform effects on insurance coverage, affordability, comprehensiveness and access to care; the best data source for each measure; data gaps; and data presentation issues. Go to: <http://www.shadac.org/publications/framework-tracking-impacts-affordable-care-act-in-california>
- **N.Y. State Health Foundation:** *Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Basic Health Insurance Option for New York* explores the State's options, costs and benefits of creating a basic health plan under the ACA, including federal funding, take-up rates by population groups, plan types, and impact on state uninsured rates. Go to: <http://www.nyshealthfoundation.org/content/document/detail/12952/>

ETCETERA

- **DSM-V Field Trial Participation:** To get information about participating in field trials of the next diagnostic manual of mental disorders, visit www.psych.org/dsm5-rcp-fieldtrials.aspx and register to volunteer or call 800-713-7123.
- **First Annual Global Implementation Conference:** August 15-17, 2011, Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, D.C. For more info and agenda, go to: <http://www.implementationconference.org/>
- **Next ACMHA Summit:** Focusing on Community Health, March 21-23, 2012, Charleston, SC ###