



HEADLINE DC

OCTOBER 15, 2011

HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **Supreme Court in Action:** The Justice Department has asked the Supreme Court to examine the constitutionality of the 11th Circuit Appeals Court ruling to strike down the ACA individual mandate on the grounds that Congress exceeded its powers. The Court also will rule on a 2008 California case (*Toby Douglas v. the Independent Living Center of the U.S.*) on whether patients and doctors can sue over state-imposed Medicaid payment cuts. Decisions in both cases are likely in summer, 2012.
- **FY 2012 Appropriations:** A continuing resolution is in place until November 18. House Republicans introduced a \$153.4 billion, 2012 Labor/HHS funding measure, a \$4 billion cut from FY 2011. Discussions continue about voting on separate or omnibus bills.

AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **CMS Deadline Extended:** Applicants have 'til November 18 to submit letters of Intent and applications for the bundled payments for care improvement initiative to better coordinate care throughout an episode of care. For more, go to: <http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2011/10/04/2011-25531/bundled-payments-for-care-improvement-initiative>
- **New Mental Illness Rate Report.** A new SAMHSA report reveals significant state-by-state variation in the prevalence mental illnesses. For more, go to: http://oas.samhsa.gov/2K11/078/WEB_SR_078.cfm
- **Recent HHS Grants Made:** (1) \$224 million (HRSA) for evidence-based home visiting programs to help parents and children (<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/09/20110922b.html>); (2) \$27.7 million (SAMHSA) for services to persons who are chronically homeless (<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1109222917.aspx>); (3) \$13.2 million (SAMHSA) to expand HIT in settings serving people with mental and substance use disorders (<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/1109231204.aspx>).
- **Last ACO Learning Session:** CMS will hold its last ACO Accelerated Development Learning Session November 17-18, Baltimore, MD. To register, go to: <https://acoregister.rti.org>

ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **Defining Essential Health Benefits:** The new IOM report on ACA "essential health benefits" says cost should be a factor in setting basic benefits. Go to: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Essential-Health-Benefits-Balancing-Coverage-and-Cost.aspx>
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Opportunity:** 10 grants (\$100,000-500,000) to non-profits/government agencies working on local health care payment reform. Brief proposals due 10/27. Go to <http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21379>
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation:** *Refocusing Responsibility for Dual Eligibles* discusses why, working through Medicare, the federal government, not states, should take responsibility for managing and coordinating care and quality. Go to: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/72868qs68dualeligiblesfull20110930.pdf>
- **Kaiser Commission on Medicaid/Uninsured:** *Five Facts about the Uninsured* explores specific factors underlying the lack of health coverage and the effects of being uninsured. Go to: <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7806-04.pdf>
- **Kaiser Commission on Medicaid/Uninsured:** *A Profile of Medicaid Managed Care Programs in 2010: Findings from a 50-State Survey* describes types of Medicaid managed care arrangements state-by-state, explores quality issues and implications for health reform. Go to: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8220.pdf>.

ETCETERA

- **REMINDER NACBHDD Fall Meeting:** October 24-25, Albany, NY
- **APHA Annual Meeting:** *Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds & Bodies* 10/29-11/2, Washington, DC. For mental health section agenda, go to: <http://www.apha.org/membersgroups/newsletters/sectionnewsletters/mental/fall11/>
- **ACMHA Summit:** March 21-23, 2012, Charleston SC. #####