



HEADLINE DC

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

HILL & LEGAL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ACA CHALLENGE.** The Supreme Court announced it *will* hear the largest challenge to the ACA's individual mandate (the Florida case). Date TBA, though some suggest March. This comes following yet another appeals court supporting constitutionality of the ACA and an Ohio ballot referendum that nixed the mandate.
- **NOVEMBER 23 SUPERCOMMITTEE TARGET LOOMS.** Will an agreement be reached to cut at least \$1.2 trillion include entitlements? Tax increases? Or will failure mean an across-the-board cut? Either way, serious political repercussions are in the offing
- **CONTINUING RESOLUTION, AGAIN.** Another CR must be enacted by Friday to avoid a government shut-down. The "minibus" bill (multiagency appropriations bill), up for a vote this week, includes a CR through mid-December. Stay tuned.
- **WILL HOUSE VOTE CLASS REPEAL?** House Energy and Commerce Committee will vote this week to repeal the CLASS Act provisions of the ACA; the Senate already has voted down a comparable measure.

AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **GOING REGIONAL.** SAMHSA has established a regional presence in each of the 10 HHS regions. More in this month's Newsletter.
- **NEW \$1 BILLION CMS INNOVATION PROGRAM.** The Health Care Innovation Challenge will make 3-year grants of up to \$30 million to local government, CBOs, providers, payers and partnerships to implement innovations in better health care delivery at lower costs to high-need populations enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP. Funds also will test ways to *expand the workforce* while reducing costs of care. Rapid start-up (6-month post funding) is key. *Letters of intent due by December 19, 2011.* For more: <http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/innovation-challenge/index.html>.
- **ACA INTERACTIVE CONFERENCE CALL SLATED.** Join HHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships on a call on the ACA and preexisting condition insurance plan (PCIP) November 29, 3:00 pm, ET. To sign up, go to: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USHHS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USHHS_268

ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **GALLUP/HEALTHWAYS ON INSURANCE.** The percentage of American adults with employer health insurance continues to decline since 2008, falling to 44.5% in the third quarter of this year. For more: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/150692/Employer-Based-Health-Insurance-Continues-Trend-Down.aspx>
- **ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION.** *Ten Criteria for Meaningful and Usable Measures of Performance.* Go to: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/72931.5415.tencriteria.pdf>. *Reform in Action: Can Measuring Physician Performance Improve Health Care Quality?* Go to: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/72929.5414.canmeasuring.pdf>
- **COMMONWEALTH FUND.** *Why Not the Best? Results from the National Scorecard on US Health System Performance.* Go to: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund_Report/2011/Oct/1500_WNTB_Natl_Scorecard_2011_web.pdf
- **MANATT HEALTH SOLUTIONS.** *Overview of Proposed Exchange, Medicaid and IRS Regulations* explains the implications of draft regulations on Medicaid, health insurance exchanges, and premium tax credits under healthcare reform, including eligibility criteria, enrollment, and verification; minimum essential coverage; and credit computation. Go to: <http://www.kidswellcampaign.org/docs/other-resources/chcf-manatt-regs-analysis---august-2011.pdf>

ETCETERA

- **2012 ACMHA SUMMIT.** March 21-23, 2012; Charleston, SC
- **NASADAD 2012 ANNUAL MEETING.** Meeting slated for June 26-28, 2012; Hyatt Regency, Savannah, GA.
- **NARMH 2012.** May 15-18, Anchorage, AK. For More, go to: <http://www.narmh.org/conferences/2012/default.aspx>