



HEADLINE DC

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

HILL HAPPENINGS: POLICY AND POLITICS

- **Legislative Battles to Resume:** Senate and House September 6 and 7 respectively. Pro forma sessions in August were held to prohibit recess appointments by the president. FY 2012 appropriations are among the first issues to be debated.
- **83 Days and Counting:** The deadline the budget super committee to report its recommendations is November 23
- **Sign on Now:** Join on Coalition for Health Funding letter urging that FY 2012 HHS/Labor/Education funding level protects programs against further cuts. Contact Broderick Johnson by September 2 (BJohnson@rabengroup.com)

AROUND THE AGENCIES: NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **ACA Initiative to Lower Cost, Coordinate Care:** On August 23, HHS announced that health care providers can apply to participate in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative to align payments for services delivered across a care episode rather than paying for services separately. Go to: <http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/bundling08232011a.html>
- **HHS awards \$137 million to states for prevention and public health:** Nearly every state has received funds through CDC, SAMHSA and the ACA to enhance state, tribal, local and territorial efforts to provide tobacco cessation services, strengthen public health laboratory and immunization services, prevent healthcare-associated infections, and provide comprehensive *substance abuse prevention and treatment*. Go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/08/20110825a.html>

ORGANIZATIONALLY SPEAKING

- **Draft IOM Report on EHB:** The final IOM recommendations on Essential Health benefits for the ACA will be released next month. A preliminary report, for background only, is at: <http://www.nacbhdd.org/content/IOM%20EHB%20Workshop%20Report%208-29-11.pdf>
- **Commonwealth Fund:** *When Unemployment Means Uninsured: The Toll of Job Loss on Health Coverage and How the ACA Will Help* explains how ACA will help unemployed Americans who skip needed care or do not fill prescriptions after losing their health insurance. Go to: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2011/Aug/1540_Doty_when_unemployed_means_uninsured_COBRA_reform%20brief.pdf
- **Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:** *Establishing Health Insurance Exchanges: An Update on State Efforts* reviews state progress in creating health insurance exchanges, exploring status and purpose of state legislative or executive action, trends in exchange design, next steps, federal funding, and challenges. Go to: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/8213.pdf>
- **Commonwealth Fund:** *The US Health System in Perspective: A Comparison of 12 Industrialized Nations* compares our health system to those in 12 OECD countries on measures of spending; physician supply/visits; utilization, supply, and prices of drugs and imaging; and performance. Examines causes of high U.S. spending. Goto: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2011/Jul/1532_Squires_US_hlt_sys_comparison_12_nations_intl_brief_v2.pdf

ETCETERA

- **Keeping It Real:** 2011 Conference sponsored by the Danya Institute: Street-level Intervention Strategies for Addiction, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis. October 17-19, Silver Spring, MD.
- **APHA Annual Meeting:** *Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds and Bodies*, October 29-November 2, 2011, Washington, DC.

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