**11/30/12 – BCWAC Health Care Report:**

**Reminder:** Purpose of the ACA is to lower the numbers of uninsured and decrease cost while increasing quality of care.

**Exchanges:** (latest update from Kaiser Foundation)
- **Nationwide:** State-based Exchanges – 18 States
- Partnership Exchanges – 6 states
- **Undecided** – 10 states (includes PA)
- Default to Federal Exchanges – 17 states

2014 - Marketplace for individuals and small businesses where all policies offered will contain essential health benefits (EHB) as outlined by HHS. New rules were released right before Thanksgiving. Those individuals between 100-400% of FPL in the Exchanges will get subsidies. Up to $46,000 for individuals and $90,000 for family of 4. All Fed elected officials will have to get their policies through their state exchanges instead of the Federal Employees Plan.

**Medicaid Expansion:** (PHAN Conf Call 11/27/12) Gov Corbett: undecided.

PHAN Report on Medicaid Expansion:


Governors are balancing improvements in coverage against new costs for states. According to Kaiser Foundation, “Medicaid enrollment and spending is expected to rise even in states that elect not to expand coverage.” (See news release and summary: `http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8384_ES.pdf`

Currently in PA Medicaid is limited to low-income children, pregnant women, disabled, and seniors to cover nursing home care. Poor but healthy adults do not qualify. A shared program - 54% of cost covered by Fed. Under Medicaid Expansion – for all poor up to 138% of FPL to drastically reduce the number of insured adults. First 3-yrs Feds cover 100% of expansion cost and after that Feds cover 90% of cost. The clock starts on this in 2014. SCOTUS took away the stick for States who can now opt out of expansion and many governors are weighing decision including PA.

Expansion in PA means 50,000-80,000 individuals could qualify depending on outreach. Cost to PA of 1.05 billion but inject $17 billion into our economy.

Medicaid is a major driver of the economy in payment to hospitals, clinics, providers, and suppliers. Under ACA, physicians will get increased payment equal to Medicare payments for care given to Medicaid patients.
Under ACA, the payments to public hospitals to cover the uninsured – disproportionate share hospitals or DSH payment – will be decrease by 75% because the full implementation of the ACA will dramatically lower the numbers of uninsured using hospitals. If PA does not Expand Medicaid the results could be devastating to hospitals whose mission is to care for low-income people. (Research report: Local Public Hospitals: Changing Times; by the Center for Studying Health Care System 11/29/12)


Those that wrote the ACA never thought the SCOTUS would take the stick away so, unlike the Exchanges where there is an alternative to the state model, in Medicaid there is no fallback position if states opt out. The poor fall through the cracks.

If PA does not accept the Medicaid Expansion, IMHO, we lose big time!!

PHAN Has written a letter to Gov Corbett encouraging him to take advantage of the opportunity to cover more poor Pennsylvanians in the Medicaid Expansion that will cost the state only $1 out of $10. 90% off cost eventually. 60 organizations signed on to this letter. **BCWAC has opportunity to sign on to letters like this...should we?** (Motion passes)

Also: **Task Force to Protect Medicaid and Medicare**—should the Coalition sign up?? (Yes) The Task Force will send out a weekly action to take like LTE with Draft to personalize....Goal of task force is (1) Protect Medicare/Medicaid; (2) Ensure that everyone who uses these programs gets everything they should.

**Essential Health Benefits:** Summary or new rules by George Washington Univ & RWJF's HealthReform GPS - detailed and wonky – if you are interested.


**Medicare:**

**Dec 4 is a state-wide action day** to protect Medicaid and Medicare; PHAN is encouraging people to call Senator Casey's office that day if you can’t attend a rally at his office in Philly at noon on Tuesday. He is having a public budget discussion on 12/6. Thank him for his support in the past in protecting these programs and ask him to refuse cuts in the Fiscal cliff/deficit reduction negotiations going on now. PHAN is also asking us to call our Congressman to not cut Medicaid and/or Medicare during the “fiscal cliff” negotiations.
PHAN is collecting stories of people on Medicare and Medicaid. What does it mean for you and your family? Seniors’ stories in nursing homes using Medicaid are very important.

Tam St. Claire, Chair
BCWAC-HC Committee