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Medicaid: Innovation at Work Conference Highlights Smart Managed Care Practices

Nation's largest Medicaid managed care conference runs Sept. 18-20 in Washington

Washington, D.C. (Sept. 16, 2019) – Medicaid provides health care coverage for 75 million low-income, disabled, and elderly individuals, or one in four Americans. This week, influential health care leaders from around the country will convene to discuss innovations that are shaping the future of this vital safety net program.

Medicaid: Innovation at Work is the theme for the 2019 edition of the largest annual Medicaid managed care conference in the country. Organized by Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA), this year's conference features a collaboration with HealthTech4Medicaid, an organization focused on ensuring that critical new technology reaches Medicaid enrollees and other traditionally disadvantaged populations.

This year's event is designed to elevate managed care organization (MCO)-driven innovations in technology, policy, and operations that are leading to better health outcomes while making the program more sustainable. The conference, which runs Sept. 18-20 in Washington, D.C, will also showcase the results of a comprehensive survey of Medicaid managed care plans' policies and practices conducted by MHPA's affiliated research and analysis organization, the Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI).

"MCOs are adopting the latest technologies, policy approaches, and business practices to improve the quality of care for their members," said Shannon Attanasio, Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy for Medicaid Health Plans of America. "This conference highlights a range of best practices that can be replicated elsewhere to the benefit of Medicaid beneficiaries across the country."

Ms. Attanasio noted that states are developing programs that address disparities in health care as well as social determinants of health – such as a lack of transportation, hunger, and educational attainment – that impact health status.

“We know that improvements in these areas will lead to healthier populations,” Attanasio said.

Cindy McCain to speak on human trafficking

One challenge facing Medicaid providers is the increasingly complex range of health needs – which extend from well-child visits to treating traumatized human trafficking survivors.

Cindy McCain, wife of the late U.S. Sen. John McCain, will deliver a keynote address on September 19. Mrs. McCain will discuss the Maricopa County Child Sex Trafficking Collaborative (Collaborative), a public-private effort between Mercy Care, an Arizona Medicaid health plan administered by Aetna; the Phoenix Police Department, and multiple human services, behavioral health and medical providers to help victims overcome the trauma they’ve experienced as a result of being trafficked. Learn more about McCain’s efforts [here](#).

For the list of other speakers, click [here](#).

Panels to highlight technology, policy, operations

The conference will consist of five keynote sessions and three innovation-focused tracks – technology, policy, and operations. For the full conference agenda, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#) or visit medicaidconference.com. Panels will include:

- **Social Determinants of Health:** How Medicaid plans can effectively build and expand programs to help members overcome social, economic and environmental barriers to better health.
- **Novel Approaches to Tackling High-Cost Drugs:** Could the Netflix subscription model translate to prescription medications, saving money for plans and states? At least one state says yes. Plus, discussion around other alternative payment mechanisms and strategies for ensuring access while also reducing the financial impact of high-cost drugs.
- **Care Coordination for Complex and Special Populations:** How managed care can improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, children in foster care, and other individuals with complex medical needs.
- **Issues in MLTSS and D-SNP, MMP Models of Integrated Care:** How plans can work with state partners to implement managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) programs and integration pathways for members dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare that improve the quality of care and health outcomes.
- **Expected Legislative Activity:** Senior Capitol Hill staff members will discuss Medicaid related legislative priorities expected this fall and through 2020.

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ABOUT MHPA

Founded in 1995, the Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) represents the interests of the Medicaid managed care industry through advocacy and research to support innovative policy solutions that enhance the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality healthcare for Medicaid enrollees. MHPA works on behalf of its 94-member health plans, known as managed care organizations (MCOs), which serve approximately 23 million Medicaid enrollees in 37 states and the District of Columbia, or about one-third of all Medicaid beneficiaries in states with managed care delivery systems. MHPA's members include both for-profit and non-profit, national and regional, as well as single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market. MHPA's annual conference attracts more than 400 senior industry executives, federal and state officials, and other stakeholders thanks to its unparalleled educational content and relationship-building opportunities.