

Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

CMCS Informational Bulletin

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FROM: Cindy Mann, Director
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SUBJECT: Maternal and Child Health Updates in Medicaid and CHIP

This Informational Bulletin provides information to States and other stakeholders on the following topics:

- Announcement of the Strong Start Initiative
- Selection of a CMCS Dental Officer
- Third Anniversary of CHIPRA: Annual Report Released

Strong Start Initiative to Increase Healthy Deliveries and Reduce Preterm Births

To help reduce the increasing number of preterm births in America and ensure more babies are born healthy, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced more than \$40 million in grants to test ways to reverse that trend, as well as a public campaign to reduce early elective deliveries.

More than half a million infants are born prematurely in America each year, a trend that has skyrocketed by 36 percent over the last 20 years. Children born preterm require additional medical attention and often require early intervention services, special education and have conditions that may affect their productivity as adults.

To tackle this problem, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation will award grants to healthcare providers and coalitions to improve prenatal care to women covered by Medicaid. The grants will support the testing of enhanced prenatal care through several approaches under evaluation, including through group visits with other pregnant women, at birth centers providing case management, and at maternity care homes where pregnant women have expanded access to better coordinated, enhanced prenatal care.

In addition, the Strong Start initiative will also focus on reducing early elective deliveries, which can lead to a variety of health problems for mothers and infants. According to research by organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the March of Dimes and others, elective deliveries before 39 weeks increase the risk of significant complications for mother and baby, as well as long-term health problems. For this component of the Strong Start campaign, CMS will work with key partners such as ACOG and the March of Dimes and hospitals across the country that have joined the Partnership for Patients – a national,

voluntary effort to improve safety and reduce avoidable harm, including obstetric harm that may stem from early elective deliveries.

For more information on the Strong Start initiative, please visit:
www.innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/strong-start.

CMCS Chief Dental Officer

Oral health care is an important part of health and well-being, especially for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP.) To provide additional support and expertise on oral health in Medicaid and CHIP, we are pleased to announce the selection of a CMCS Chief Dental Officer – Dr. Lynn Mouden, DDS. He will join our growing oral health team on February 27.

Dr. Mouden is currently serving as Director of Arkansas' Office of Oral Health. He also holds faculty appointments at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry, the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry, and three faculty appointments at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). He spent 16 years in private practice dentistry and eight years with the Missouri Department of Health before taking the position in Arkansas.

Dr. Mouden is a Fellow of both the International and American College of Dentists, and has served in numerous dental leadership roles at the local, state and national level. He is a Past-President of the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) and serves as the American Dental Association's National Spokesperson on family violence prevention. Dr. Mouden earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas; his DDS, with distinction, from the University of Missouri at Kansas City; his Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina; and completed the US Department of Health and Human Services Primary Care Policy Fellowship in 1998. He has received the Outstanding Service Award from ASTDD and most recently was awarded the Chief Dental Officer's Exemplary Service Award from the US Public Health Service.

Third CHIPRA Annual Report

The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) was signed into law on February 4, 2009, providing continued authority and funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program and also adding new policy tools and financial incentives to assist States in reaching children who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage but are not enrolled.

To mark the anniversary of CHIPRA, CMCS released its third annual report on February 3, "Connecting Kids to Coverage: Steady Growth, New Innovation," that charts our collective progress toward advancing children's coverage across the country. The report is available at <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/chipraannualreport.pdf>. In addition to the gains in children's coverage, the anniversary report highlights the new innovations being tested at the State, Federal, and community levels to bring the nation closer to ensuring that all children in America have high quality, affordable health coverage. The report includes national and state-level enrollment for children in Medicaid and CHIP. Happy anniversary!