



**CHILDREN'S  
COALITION**  
For Northeast Louisiana

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October 13, 2010

Bruce Greenstein  
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals  
P.O. Box 629  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0629

Dear Secretary Greenstein:

The Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana is writing in support of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals' efforts to reform the Medicaid and CHIP delivery system through the implementation of Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs).

Our organization has a long history of working with healthcare issues in Louisiana. We have served as a regional Covering Kids and Families Coalition working with DHH to seek and enroll eligible children in the LaCHIP Program since 2003. In addition to LaCHIP our healthcare work includes: facilitating the work of the Region VIII Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, the Region VIII Injury Prevention/Child Safety and the Region VIII Asthma Management and Prevention Program. We feel that the Department's plan to bring a more coordinated system of care to the state is critical in ensuring adequate access to health care and improved health and quality of life for our most vulnerable residents.

Our current health care system is failing those that need it most, yet it continues to grow at a rate that is unsustainable. Despite investing nearly \$7 billion in taxpayer funds annually toward medical care, our state's health outcomes continue to be among the worst in the nation. The statistics are disturbing – highest diabetes death rate, highest breast cancer death rate and highest infant mortality rate in the nation. It is imperative that we act now. Louisiana deserves better.

Medicaid recipients and Medicaid providers are trapped in a system that rewards volume over value. CCNs will break that mold, minimizing the fragmentation and unnecessary duplication and overutilization of services and putting the focus on management of chronic conditions, primary and preventive care and the education of enrollees. Additionally, the CCN model allows greater flexibility for the provision of enhanced benefits, incentives for improved quality and tools to encourage healthy choices among enrollees.

The Children's Coalition recognizes and appreciates how supportive the Louisiana Legislature has been in helping us work toward better health care for our citizens. We believe that Coordinated Care Networks are the next obvious step in managing the health care crisis in Louisiana. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to providing a supporting role in the education and outreach to our local community as Coordinated Care Networks are implemented.

Sincerely,

  
Lynda Gavioli,  
Executive Director