**Regional Coalition Conference Call Summary**

**Thursday, July 2, 2015 – 9:30 to 10:30 AM**

9: 30 AM **CMS proposed rule on Medicaid managed care regulations**

<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>

Amber Cutler, Justice in Aging

Review and discussion

* CMS released a new set of rules for Medicaid managed care – these are the first regulatory changes in more than a decade. We may not see changes to the new rule for many years, so it’s important for us to focus on integration of LTSS into Medicaid managed care.
* Justice in Aging has created an issue brief encouraging aging advocates to focus on particular pages. See <http://www.justiceinaging.org/> for the issue brief and for a recording of a recent webinar.

Webinar: <http://www.justiceinaging.org/webinar-medicaid-managed-care-rules-key-considerations-for-aging-advocates/>

Issue brief: <http://www.justiceinaging.org/medicaid-managed-care-rules-key-considerations-for-aging-advocates/>

* How CMS draft defines LTSS: leaves lots of discretion to states in defining and carrying out provisions of the rule. Justice in Aging encourages more specificity. California experience with SPDs, with rural care, and with CCI gives us a lot of experience to communicate to CMS.
* Person-centered care. Leads to issues of how to coordinate care
* Enrollment and disenrollment. California has experience with the need for improved notices; we believe that 14-day notices are not enough given California’s experience that 90 days may not be enough for informed choice
* Appeals and grievances: CMS goal is consistency across insurance lines. Does this help various groups of consumers: because consumers have different profiles in CCI vs Medicare Advantage, etc. One result is the new rule would cause a loss of a state fair hearing that right now is immediately available. CMS asks for comment on this.
* Choice counseling is to be available before needing to choose. What kind of support is needed to make this work well?
* Network adequacy: several places to weigh in on
* A vague section on care continuity: Justice in Aging sees this as an area to provide input
* Idea of “rebalancing”: eliminate incentives for institutional care; add incentives for home and community based care. This is a goal of CMS yet the language here is not particularly strong. Amber recommends attention to this section. How will rate setting contribute to rebalancing? Needs language about measuring rebalancing. E.g., are plans working on transitioning consumers from hospitals to facilities and from facilities to HCBS.
* Justice in Aging will circulate “template comments” in a week or two.

Request: please send call notes our quickly.

Question: Does the document define LTSS as California statute does?

Response: The document does not define LTSS narrowly – see sections 31141-31144. The document establishes a floor for services, but not a limit. (California statute has four required services.)

Question: what’s the timeline for California obeying new rules, once final?

Response: The administration’s goal is for these rules are in place before the next presidential administration. Once published, it’s unclear what the timetable for state adoption will be. This may be a state-by-state lobbying effort – e.g., working on a state statute.

* Amber recommends more oversight from CMS, which in the current draft is not strongly spelled out.
* Template comments: draft that people can use when focusing on issues. A help with “where do I start?”
* Health plans will be focused on issues, as will California as a state agency; let’s not lose the voice of the advocates and consumers in this.

Question: is TSF going to submit comments?

Megan Burke is heading up this effort; TSF will share its comments.

**Coalition by Coalition Look: 2014 Accomplishments/2015 Projects**

**Community Living Council of Nevada County**

Ana Acton:

* Community conference is coming up July 29; Amber Cutler will be a plenary speaker. There will be speakers, workshops, etc. on aging and disability issues. Sample topic: “Care coordination in the age of managed care.” Ana hopes this will become an annual event. Focus will be around local understanding and action. All are invited: call 877-847-0499 for info.
* Area 4 Agency on Aging and the FREED Center for Independent Living are looking for ways to expand the ADRC into Yuba and Sutter counties. Nevada County has a long history of bringing providers together – it’s a pattern not yet in place in Yuba and Sutter.

Upcoming coalition presentations

* August: Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance and Monterey Bay Aging and Disability Resource Coalition
* September: Senior Coalition of Stanislaus County and Service and Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging
* October: Ventura County Evidence Based Health Promotion Coalition and Service and Advocacy Coalition
* November: San Mateo New Beginning Coalition and San Diego LTC Integration Project
* December: Santa Clara County

**SCAN Foundation Update**

* New regional coalition RFP is now available
* Please let other coalitions know about the RFP
* Let Kali know by July 20 if you plan to join a conference call about the RFP

*The Optional Conference Call* provides an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions about the RFP. To participate in the call, please send an email indicating your intent to participate, including the name of your coalition, and any specific questions. Mail to: KPeterson@TheSCANFoundation.org no later than

**Monday, July 20th** (5pm PDT).

* Conference call is July 22 at 2 p.m. Pacific
* See the announcement for the timeline – see page 18 of the RFP
* Let Kali know if you have any issues with the FLEXX grant application system

Question: If we want to broaden our territory to include other counties, would we apply for one grant for more counties or a separate grant for a new coalition?

Answer: TSF has only provided grants to existing coalitions, rather than helping to establish a new coalition. In the instance of expanding your work, it would make more sense to use the Part B grant to assist with expansion.

Also see the policy brief and the perspective from Bruce Chernof, M.D., the CEO of TSF – these are good resources to share within your coalition.

Policy Brief: <http://www.thescanfoundation.org/system-transformation-california-coordinating-health-care-and-long-term-services-and-supports>

Perspective from Dr. Chernof: <http://www.thescanfoundation.org/perspectives-care-delivery-transformation-california-aligning-opportunities-capacity>

Kali Peterson: Thank you to regional coalitions for responding to a questionnaire about local health-plan advisory committees. Every Cal MediConnect health plan has a regional coalition member sitting on an advisory committee; and, 21 more plans have regional coalition members sitting on a health plan advisory committee.

**Collaborative Update**

* Communications workgroup request: media contact lists
* Conference call on July 7, 10 a.m.; further discussion of CMS proposed rule on Medicaid managed care regulations – any and all regional coalition participants are welcome to join the discussion: same call in # and PIN
* July 10 Collaborative meeting is on the CCI; special guest will be Sarah Brooks, new deputy at DHCS. All are invited to call in. Same # and PIN

The next calls, first Thursdays of the month, from 9:30 to 10:30:

* *August 6*
* *September 3*
* *October 1*

Participants:

*Amber Cutler, Justice in Aging*

*Alameda County: Wendy Peterson, Tracy Murray, Patricia Osage, and Janet Van Dusen*

*Orange County: Christine Chow and Mallory Vega*

*San Francisco: Melissa McGee and Cindy Kauffman*

*San Diego: Jenel Lim, Brenda Schmitthenner, and Lisa Hayes*

*Bay Area Senior Health Policy: Katherine Kelly*

*Riverside: Renee Dar-Khan, Paul Van Doran, and Lisa Hayes*

*L.A.: Tammy Nguyen and Anwar Zoueihid*

*Santa Clara:*

*Yolo: Sheila Allen and Fran Smith*

*Chico: Sarah May*

*Central Valley: Marlene Hubbell and Terri Deits*

*Stanislaus: Dianna Olsen, Erlinda Bourcier, Linda Lowe, Barry Smith, and Stephanie Navarette*

*Nevada County: Ana Acton and Ann Guerra*

*Monterey Bay: Patty Talbot and Olivia Quezada*

*Ventura County: Sue Tatangelo, Blair Craddock, and Monique Nowlin*

*San Mateo: Cristina Ugaitafa and Marilyn Baker-Venturini*

*Service and Advocacy: Jennifer Griffin*

*Co. Co. Co.: Gerald Richards*

*Santa Barbara: Barbara Finch*

*TSF: Kali Peterson and Rene Seidel*

*GACI: Jack Hailey*