

Medicaid Matters

Health Home expansion to help patients with chronic health conditions

More than 250,000 Medicaid recipients with chronic health conditions will soon have access to enhanced care coordination and other services to improve their overall health when the Alabama Medicaid Agency expands its Health Home program on April 1, 2015.

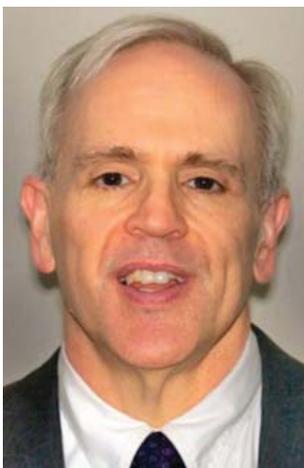
Six probationary Regional Care Organizations (RCOs) have signed contracts to operate Health Home programs. The groups include: Region A: Alabama Community Care – Region A and My Care Alabama; Region B: Alabama Care Plan; Region C: Alabama Community Care – Region C; Region D: Care Network of Alabama; and Region E: Gulf Coast Regional Care Organization. [Click here](#) to see a regional map.



The program, which has operated since 2012 as Patient Care Networks in 21 counties of the state, is expanding statewide as an interim step toward implementation of full-risk Regional Care Organization. RCOs are locally-led managed care systems that will ultimately provide healthcare services to Medicaid enrollees at an established cost under the supervision and approval of the Alabama Medicaid Agency. [Read more >>](#)

Governor Bentley appoints Brannan as statewide HIT Coordinator

Governor Robert Bentley has appointed Paul Brannan of Montgomery to serve as the state's coordinator for health information technology. As HIT coordinator, Brannan will provide leadership, direction, management, and coordination of *One Health Record*, Alabama's statewide health information exchange and related technology initiatives in collaboration with the Alabama Health Information Exchange Advisory Commission.



*Paul Brannan
HIT Coordinator*

Brannan previously served as Director of the Project Management Office for the Alabama Medicaid Agency where he was responsible for providing project management support for all enterprise-wide Agency projects including Medicaid's transition to Regional Care Organizations.

A graduate of Auburn University Montgomery, Brannan has been employed by the Agency since the 1990s. During his tenure, he served as MMIS Coordinator whose duties included development and award of the fiscal agent RFP and the implementation and federal certification of the new fiscal agent system. In addition, Brannan served as Agency Privacy officer with responsibilities for Agency compliance with federal privacy regulations.



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Workgroup to evaluate, report on Medicaid long term care services

Members of a state workgroup tasked with evaluating Medicaid long term care services are now studying potential ways to improve quality and outcomes for Medicaid recipients. The workgroup, comprised of 17 members, includes long term care and home care providers as well as state agency officials and consumer advocates.

The group was commissioned in 2013 state legislation creating Medicaid Regional Care Organizations (RCOs). Once complete, the workgroup's findings are to be reported to the state Legislature and to Governor Robert Bentley on October 1, 2015. Long term care services are currently exempted under the RCO law.

The group is looking at a wide range of services including both institutional and community-based long term care, according to Kathy Hall, Deputy Commissioner for Program Administration. During February, the group heard presentations from Medicaid, the Alabama Nursing Home Association, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. [Click here](#) to see the presentations on the Agency's website.



Kristina Moorehead, AARP Legislative Representative, listens to an attendee's question.

Medicaid employees honored for state service totaling 860 years

Forty-three Medicaid Agency employees with a combined total of 860 years of service to the State of Alabama were recognized by Acting Commissioner Stephanie Azar in a ceremony held on February 12.

Azar presented 35-year service pins to Cynthia Dobyne and Daryl Baker, and 30-year service pins to Kimberly Bath, Keith Boswell, Clifford Johnson, Sheryl Preston and Vivian Tuck. The commissioner also presented 25-year pins to 11 staff members, 20-year pins to eight employees, 15-year pins to eight staffers, 10-year pins to eight employees, and 5-year pins to one employee.



Daryl Baker and Cynthia Dobyne display 35-year service pins.

"I am grateful to Cynthia and Daryl for their many years of service to the state and to Alabama's most vulnerable citizens. Thanks to the efforts of these very experienced employees, as well as others recognized today, Medicaid is able to serve more than 1 million recipients each year in an exemplary manner," she said.

Baker has spent the past 15 years in the Agency's Program Integrity Division's Quality Control Unit.

Dobyne has spent most of her career in Beneficiary Services handling a variety of jobs. She now serves as director of the Western region, overseeing eligibility offices throughout the state from Mobile to Birmingham and Florence.

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