



JUNE 2018

CHILDREN'S HEALTH COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

ASK CANDIDATES TO PLEDGE SUPPORT

NEW STORY COLLECTION COORDINATOR

2018 MEDICAID SUMMIT

MISSION

Our mission is to bring a consumer voice to public policy so that every West Virginian has quality, affordable health care and the opportunity to lead an informed, healthy and productive life.

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

The West Virginia Children's Health Collaborative-- a two-year grant focused on making consumer-driven policy connections between schools, health care and the community, is in its last month of surveying people around the state, focused on the five priorities of the grant (attached).

Nearly 500 survey responses have been received, with a goal of 1000 completed surveys by the end of June.

WVAHC would especially like to thank Board President, Sam Hickman, for his efforts to solicit survey responses from social workers. At this time, they are the group that has been most receptive to completing them.

In August, we will share our survey results with the state via a report and press conference, then plot a strategic plan of action, using your input in better connecting schools, health care, and communities.

What can you do to help?

- Forward information about this project to folks who may be interested. If they

want to learn more, they can visit our website.

- Suggest a survey. Do you see an important group not listed in the above list of survey groups? Send us suggestions.
- Sign up for a phone interview. Are there specific challenges, opportunities or ideas you'd like for us to explore in making these important linkages? Sign up to talk to us. Your input will remain anonymous.
- Help us send survey links. If you're part of an email list or group listed above and would like to see better representation from your peers, email us for a link to the survey. We'll even send you an email template to forward to colleagues that you're free to tweak and make your own.

You're always welcome to contact us with any ideas, thoughts, or recommendations you may have. Please send them to Kelli Caseman, Director of Child Health at kelli@wvahc.org.

ASK CANDIDATES TO PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR MEDICAID AND THE ACA

The West Virginia primaries are behind us and candidates from both parties running for the Statehouse and for Congress are on the campaign trails. It is time to make sure that they know that voters in the Mountain state make health care issues a top priority and support candidates who stand up for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the ACA.

WVAHC's West Virginians Together for Medicaid Campaign has created a set of tools to share with candidates. The set includes a [power point](#) you can use to educate candidates about how critical Medicaid and the ACA are to West Virginians, our hospitals and health care providers, and our economy. We have two

candidate education fact sheets that you can share with candidates with facts about the benefits of Medicaid and the ACA to our state. The education pieces end with an ask for candidates to take a pledge to support both programs.

[Medicaid Candidate Education Fact Sheet](#)

[ACA Candidate Education Fact Sheet](#)

It is time to make sure that every West Virginia candidate hears from us. And don't forget that [Sharing Your Story](#) about Medicaid, CHIP, and the ACA is also a critical way to move the hearts and minds of candidates, policy-makers, and the public in regards to health issues, Medicaid waivers, and the Medicaid budget.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

07/12/18

WOMEN'S HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING
12PM-1PM
WV FREE

08/08/18

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING
10AM-12PM
600 LEON SULLIVAN
WAY

09/17/18

MEDICAID SUMMIT
9AM-4:30PM
CHARLESTON'S
HOLIDAY INN & SUITES

09/19/18

MEDICAID COALITION
MEETING
10AM-12PM
KANAWHA-CHARLESTON
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

11/08/18

WVAHC FUNDRAISER
6PM-9PM
CHARLESTON WOMEN'S
CLUB



2018 MEDICAID SUMMIT

Registration for West Virginia's second annual Medicaid Summit is now open. The summit will be held on September 17, 2018 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in South Charleston. The theme for this year's summit is "Medicaid Matters to West Virginia." To register go to www.wvahc.org.

Medicaid plays an important role in the health of West Virginians. At this year's summit we will showcase issues and programs that benefit from Medicaid by devoting this year's conference to the positive faces of Medicaid. The Summit will cover four topics: substance abuse disorders, children, chronic conditions, and seniors and those with disabilities.

Medicaid Matters to those with Substance Abuse Disorders who receive treatment thanks to Medicaid Waivers. Medicaid Matters to people with chronic conditions who are dependent on medical services provided by Medicaid. Medicaid Matters to seniors and the disabled who rely on Medicaid to provide services that allow them to remain independent or to get the

skilled nursing care they deserve. Medicaid Matters to children who receive Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits provided by Medicaid.

A key focus of this summit will be the need to collect positive Medicaid stories. These stories help make the connection between the Medicaid program and the people it serves. Each session will feature a personal Medicaid success story. If you have a story to share we would love to feature you at the summit; please contact Doris Selko, Deputy Executive Director of WVAHC at doris@wvahc.org.

Register for the Summit at www.wvahc.org.

2018 SUMMIT SPEAKER-MERRILL FRIEDMAN



Meet presenter, Merrill Friedman, of the 2018 Medicaid Summit. Ms. Friedman leads the Disability Policy Engagement team and stakeholder advocacy strategy for Anthem, a leading health benefits company serving nearly 71 million people nationwide. She is a leader in the child and adolescent services field including foster care, behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and juvenile justice. Ms. Friedman will be discussing the MCO program at this year's Summit taking place on September 17th. [Click Here To Register for the Summit Today!](#)



NEW MEDICAID/CHIP STORY COLLECTION COORDINATOR

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care and our West Virginians Together for Medicaid campaign are excited to welcome Lara Foster as our new full-time Story Collection Coordinator. Foster will focus her outreach efforts on West Virginians who are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. With one third of our state population relying on Medicaid and CHIP for quality, affordable health coverage, it is important to partner with enrollees who can share their stories and be advocates for positive Medicaid/CHIP policies and funding. There is no better advocacy tool to influence policy decision-makers than a real story from a constituent. Facts and data are important, but a story can move hearts and minds.

Foster has a history of social justice work and activities – including volunteering with the West Virginia Poor People’s Campaign, World Vision, West Virginia Flood Relief, and Habitat for Humanity. She has a Masters in Applied Social Research from WVU.

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor would like to be part of our storybank, go to wvtogetherformedicaid.com and click on [Share Your Story](#). Foster will contact you and tell you more. And, of course, you will control where and when your story might be used to help protect Medicaid and CHIP.

Medicaid Coalition Membership Update

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care is currently updating our Medicaid Coalition membership list. If you would like to continue receiving communications about Medicaid, please update your contact information per the membership form sent via email. If you no longer wish to take part or can no longer locate your membership form, please contact LaTonya Fuller, Medicaid Coalition Coordinator, at your earliest convenience. (latonya@wvahc.org)