LEARNING FROM LOUISIANA

MEDICAID EXPANSION AND ACCESS TO

HEALTHCARE IN LOUISIANA

DECEMBER 13, 2016

Louisiana Center for Health Equity
Louisiana Center for Health Equity
President and Founder
and
A. Charles Stewart Consultants
CEO and President
PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

- Explain the current status and key strategies that led to Medicaid expansion in Louisiana.

- Discuss why advocacy and grassroots organizing is critical to systemic change and success.

- Describe progress and challenges in expanding access to healthcare in Louisiana.
ABOUT LOUISIANA CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY

- Works to address the increasing disparities in health and health care
- Represents the interest of health equity
- Promotes the elimination of health disparities caused by poverty, lack of access to quality health care, and unhealthy environmental conditions
- Focus on wellness and community health
MANY DIFFERENT POPULATIONS IMPACTED BY DISPARITIES

- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Residents of rural areas
- Women, children, the elderly
- Persons with disabilities
- Sexual orientation or gender identify (HP2020)
- Socio-economic status
SNAPSHOT OF LOUISIANA

- Population of 4.7 million\(^1\)
- 19.6 Percent population living in poverty\(^2\)
- Least healthy state in the country – ranks 50\(^{th}\) per America’s Health Rankings
- 11.9 Percent people without health insurance\(^3\)
- 570,200 adults below 138-percent-of-poverty income level were eligible before Medicaid expansion\(^4\)

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\(^1\) Source: [http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2015/index.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/data/state/totals/2015/index.html)

\(^2\) Source: 2014 and 2015 American Community Survey. For more information on the ACS, see [census.gov/acs](http://census.gov/acs).

\(^3\) Source: [http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.html](http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2016/demo/p60-256.html)

SNAPSHOT OF LOUISIANA CONT’D

- Average household income of poorest families in Louisiana is $11,156 per year, less than $1,000 per month.¹
- Single mother with one child - $45,840 or $22.04 hourly²
- Married couple family with one child - $55,428 or $26.65 hourly (1 worker) or $13.32 hourly (2 workers each)²
- Healthcare and then housing are the biggest expenses.²

¹ Source: Jesuit Social Research Institute, “JustSouth Index: Healthcare and the Family Budget.”  
http://www.loyno.edu/jsri/sites/loyno.edu.jsri/files/JustSouth%20Index%202016_0.pdf
² Source: Jesuit Social Research Institute, “Too Much for Too Many: What Does it Cost Families to Live in Louisiana.”  
The Journey to Medicaid Expansion

- Convened in January 2013
- A positive, proactive, non-partisan, issue-based campaign that works in an organized, coordinated, thoughtful fashion, serving as a cohesive voice for better access to healthcare for all Louisianans
POLICY ADVOCACY
and
A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT
DYING FOR COVERAGE VIGILS

6:00 pm on May 1st at the State Capitol

DYING FOR COVERAGE: HEALTHCARE SAVES LIVES

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

6:00 pm on May 1st at the State Capitol

According to the Institute of Medicine, more than 3,300 people died prematurely in Louisiana between the years of 2005 and 2013 because they were not insured.

With hundreds still dying every year, our state's refusal to expand the Medicaid health insurance program through the Affordable Care Act threatens lives across Louisiana.

Louisiana Center for Health Equity
LEGISLATIVE STUDY ON STATE’S HEALTH SYSTEM

State Representative Patricia Smith, a Medicaid expansion supporter, authored resolution to evaluate Louisiana’s system of healthcare delivery.
Gubernatorial Candidate Forum on Healthcare
Governor John Bel Edwards Signs Executive Order (Jan. 12, 2016)

Louisiana becomes first in Deep South to expand Medicaid
2016 Health Summit
Purpose of Health Summit

☑ To share knowledge among a broad audience to work toward creating a policy agenda for healthcare and building collaborative partnerships for improving community health statewide.
HEALTH SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

- Engage health advocates and partners in state health improvement planning process.
- Present proven models for improving health outcomes and health care financing.
- Draft a policy agenda regarding healthcare.
- Provide tools to continue community health improvements.
LDH’s Louisiana State Health Improvement Plan identifies five strategic priorities:

1. Assure Access to Healthcare
2. Support Behavioral Health
3. Promote Healthy Lifestyles
4. Promote Economic Development
5. Build Public Health Infrastructure

GOAL ONE: ASSURE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- The Health Summit identified four priority areas that need to be addressed to help assure access to healthcare in Louisiana
  - Medicaid Expansion
  - Bayou Health Plans, now Healthy Louisiana
  - Data Systems/Electronic Medical Records/Health Information Exchange
  - Parity between Medicare and Medicaid
GOAL TWO: SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Expanding Medicaid will expand access to mental health services.
- Lack of mental health services has been a major issue within the healthcare system.
- Many people with mental health issues have been criminalized due to lack of education among the criminal justice system and limited resources.
- The closure of some mental health facilities in the state left a shortage of emergency services for mental health patients.
GOAL THREE: PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

- Several organizations are working to pioneer new ways to manage population health.
- The Louisiana LDH - OPH implemented the Well Ahead initiative in 2014.
- To ensure success of such initiatives, more community involvement is necessary.
- More work needed in local communities to improve health outcomes, reduce disparities and barriers to increase physical activity for children and adults.
GOAL FOUR: PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Healthcare is a large economic driver.
- Healthcare sector employs the most people. Over 35% of the Louisiana workforce is in hospitals.
- Medicaid expansion is an opportunity for economic development and growing the healthcare workforce.
- With the increased number of insured patients and growing aging population, the demand for healthcare workers will increase, especially the need for more physicians.
MEDICAID EXPANSION IS WORKING

- Medicaid expansion is working for 354,054 uninsured adults (as of 12/5/16)
- People between the ages of 18-64 who fall within the population of people unable to obtain health insurance now have access to primary care and prevention services.
- Medicaid expansion is helping our hospitals’ doors stay open, especially in rural areas.
SUMMARY AND CLOSING THOUGHTS

ACA Repeal and Replace: What’s at Stake?

- Over 558,000 Louisiana residents could lose coverage under ACA repeal.
- Louisiana would lose $26.7 Billion in federal funding.
- Low and moderate income working families would be hit hard and coverage gains would likely be lost.
- Continued advocacy is important.

Source: http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/12-7-16health-factsheets-la.pdf