Health Reform: Prevention Workgroup
Friday, November 19, 2010
North Carolina Institute of Medicine, Morrisville
1:00pm-4:00pm
Meeting Summary

Attendees:
Workgroup Members: Jeffrey Engel (co-chair), Laura Gerald (co-chair), Alice Ammerman, Lori Fuller, Sue McLaurin, Lloyd Novick, Beth Osborne, Janice Petersen, Barbara Pullen-Smith, Sen. Joe Sam Queen, Anne Rogers, Meka Sales, Jessica Schorr Saxe, Sorien Schmidt, Jeff Spade, Anne Thomas, R.W. Watkins

Steering Committee Members: Serena Weisner

NCIOM Staff: Jennifer Hastings, Sharon Schiro, Rachel Williams

Other Interested Persons: Wendy Clewis Amundson, Julie Daugherty, Amber Foreman, Shanae Godley, Shoshana Goldberg, Debra Hawkins, Markita Keaton, Erica Preston-Roedder, Kevin Ryan, Roytesa Savage, Chelsea Stowe, Christine Weason

Welcome and Introductions
Jeffrey Engel, MD, State Health Director, NC Division of Public Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Co-chair

Laura Gerald, MD, MPH, Executive Director, NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund, Co-chair

Dr. Engel and Dr. Gerald welcomed the workgroup to the meeting.

USPS Recommended Clinical Preventive Services Currently Paid for by Medicaid: What Are the Gaps?
Beth Osborne, MSN, RN, Chief—Practitioner, Clinical and Facility Services, Division of Medical Assistance

Ms. Osborne reviewed current Medicaid coverage of preventative services and the United States Preventative Services' (USPS) recommendations to expand that coverage under ACA Sec. 4106. Section 4106 requires coverage of grade-A and B clinical preventative services recommended by the USPS Task Force and of vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The provision also gives one additional federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) point for states that elect to cover these services and vaccines without cost-sharing. The USPS Task Force recommendations can be divided into nine groups:

intervention in the newborn, laboratory screening tests, screening radiology, genetic counseling and testing, screening in pregnancy, screening for non-pregnant women, screening and counseling, chemoprevention, and other prevention and screening. Her presentation can be found here: USPS Recommendations.

Selected questions and comments:

- Information concerning the penetrance of the current provisions and what reimbursement codes are is needed.
- Q: Did the USPS Task force look at other vaccine recommendations such as those by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)? A: No, we only looked at CDC and ACIP.
- Q: Screening and counseling are going to be covered now. Do you think treatment will be covered in the future? A: Treatment will be covered under behavioral health services.
- Q: North Carolina's Medicaid has done a good job of covering services not required by the federal government. Given the current economic pressures, do you think this coverage will continue? A: Yes. The process to change coverage is long and difficult and therefore there will probably not be changes.
- The real target is not that services are not covered, but that services are being rendered. If providers assume Medicaid doesn't cover something then they won't offer it.
- Q: Does Medicaid check to see what screening is done and if practitioners are using screening accurately? A: Medicaid has post-payment review and chart reviews but otherwise no. There are studies on quality control but not ongoing measures.

To evaluate the cost implications of implementing the USPSTF and ACIP recommendations, a cost analysis subgroup was formed. This group will report back to the Workgroup at the next meeting. The subgroup members are: Lloyd Novick, Anne Rogers, Beth Osborne, Gail Stone, Ruth Peterson, and Alice Ammerman.

Examples of Evidence-Based Programs that Focus on Encouraging Medicaid Recipients to Adopt a Healthy Lifestyle

Shoshana Goldberg and Erica Preston-Roedder, PhD, Students, UNC Gillings School of Public Health

Ms. Goldberg and Ms. Preston-Roedder presented a summary of evidence-based interventions to improve health in low income/Medicaid populations. Topics covered included: obesity, cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, tobacco cessation, and economic incentives. Their presentation can be found here: Prevention in Medicaid Recipients.

Selected questions and comments:

- Q: Are there ACA grant opportunities to try incentive programs? A: Yes there is a particular grant for incentive-based programs. I don't know if they are just going to Medicaid programs or programs for all payers. Also, the funds have been authorized but not appropriated.

Next meeting:
Anne Rogers will identify someone from the State Health Plan to do a presentation on Small Business Worksite Wellness. A subcommittee was defined to work on developing a proposal for future discussions of the Community Transformation Grant including Alice Ammerman, Sue McLaurin, Barbara Pullen-Smith, Meka Sales, Shanae Godley, Laura Gerald, Laura Edwards, and Serena Weisner.

Public Comment Period

- I am impressed with the hard work this group is doing. The American Cancer Society is also working on implementing ACA initiatives.