



AGENDA FOR CHILDREN

A VOICE FOR LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN

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October 15, 2010

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Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
P.O. Box 629

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0629

Dear Secretary Greenstein:

Agenda for Children is pleased to provide our support of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals' efforts to reform the Medicaid and CHIP delivery system through the implementation of Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs).

Our organization has a long history of working with health care issues in Louisiana. Agenda for Children was very active in advocating for the state adoption of SOBRA to provide Medicaid services to pregnant women and children. We were also deeply involved in outreach, education and advocacy for LaCHIP and its subsequent expansions. Agenda for Children was supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in our efforts to increase enrollment in LaCHIP and Medicaid, first serving as a pilot program for the Covering Kids Initiative and later leading the statewide Covering Kids and Families Coalition. We have seen firsthand the importance of access to comprehensive, quality health care for all children. We feel that the Department's plan to bring a more coordinated system of care to the state is critical to ensuring adequate access to health care and improved health and quality of life for our most vulnerable residents.

Our state's health outcomes continue to be among the worst in the nation. The statistics are disturbing – highest diabetes death rate, highest breast cancer death rate and one of the highest infant mortality rates **in the nation**. It is imperative that we act now. Louisiana and its children and families deserve better.

We believe that adoption of a coordinated care network system will provide an improved opportunity to focus on the management of chronic conditions, primary and preventive care and the education of enrollees. Additionally, the CCN model will allow greater flexibility for the provision of enhanced benefits, incentives for improved quality and tools to encourage healthy choices among enrollees.

Agenda for children recognizes and appreciates the support of the Louisiana Legislature in helping us work toward better health care for our citizens. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to providing a supporting role in the education and outreach to our local community as Coordinated Care Networks are implemented.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cooks
Co-Interim Executive Director

Sharon Pomeroy
Co-Interim Executive Director

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