

HPIO's work assists policymakers preparing for ACA implementation

2012 marks the midpoint between passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010 and its full implementation in 2014. The first edition of HPIO notes in 2012 will highlight the work HPIO is doing to inform policymakers about the landmark legislation and prepare the state for its implementation. A detailed list of our work related to the ACA can be found on the next page.

health & wellness

HPIO's focus on achieving and maintaining health and wellness recognizes the importance of prevention and population-based health. The ACA includes several provisions designed to increase access to preventive services and create a more coordinated and effective prevention infrastructure, including:

- Requires Medicare and health plans are to **cover preventive services**
- Establishes the **National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council**, which was charged with the development of the National Prevention Strategy
- Creates the **Prevention and Public Health Fund** to support public health infrastructure.

HPIO's Health & Wellness Communication Collaborative is bringing together prevention organizations, including the Ohio Department of Health, from around the state to improve policymaker understanding of the role, value and importance of prevention. Launched in September 2011, the collaborative has conducted a survey of existing prevention messages and is prioritizing strategies to improve coordination and communications capacity among prevention organizations. HPIO also contributes to the Ohio Department of Health's State Health Improvement Plan process and partners with public health organizations to release the County Health Rankings each year.

payment reform

The ACA emphasizes payment reform through the promotion of:

- **Global payments**
- **Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)**
- **Performance-based incentives**
- **Medical/health homes**

While many of these payment reform strategies were aimed at improving health care coordination, quality, and cost containment in Medicare, the ACA provisions were tailored to promote similar strategies in Medicaid as well.

HPIO's Payment Reform Collaborative brings together a multi-stakeholder group to explore and advise policymakers on both public and private payment reform strategies with the potential to align public and private payment for health care with optimal quality. The Collaborative, working in partnership with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, is exploring opportunities to leverage ACA and other payment reform strategies in the public sector and align them with payment reform strategies and opportunities to improve health system performance in the public and private sector throughout the state.

access to care

A primary function of the ACA is to increase access to health insurance through provisions such as:

- Medicaid expansion
- Health insurance premium and cost-sharing subsidies
- The Basic Health Program
- The creation of health insurance exchanges
- The federal mandate requiring individuals to have minimum health care coverage.

In addition, ACA provisions such as investments in workforce, community health centers, and school-based health centers, and enhanced reimbursement for primary care and health homes will help ensure that folks who gain coverage can actually access health care. These provisions also can help start closing gaps among underserved populations.

In addition, the Access Collaborative has agreed to the following initial products in order to inform policymakers.

1. Access Brief: including a section on how the ACA will impact access to health care
2. Ohio Access Dashboard: To enable us to track how access indicators change over time with the implementation of the ACA.
3. Access Forum: to include how the ACA will impact access to health care. Speaker and focus TBD.

data transparency

HPIO's work around improving Ohio health data transparency led to a preliminary meeting of an All Payer Claims Database Collaborative in that fall, in conjunction with HPIO's educational forum on APCDs. Patrick Miller, Executive Director of the national APCD Council moderated the meeting, which included insurance, business, provider and consumer representatives, as well as representatives from state government, including Greg Moody, Director of the Ohio Office of Health Transformation. The Payment Reform Collaborative also is exploring issues related to transparency and public reporting of data.

The ACA contains several provisions that support expanded collection and reporting of health data.

- **Increases data collection and public reporting** for hospitals and physicians and improves reporting requirement for nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities.
- **Establishes the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)** to perform comparative effectiveness research using quality metrics.
- **Sets minimum data collection standards** for state run exchanges, including standardizing the electronic transmission of health care claims, enrollment and benefit data.
- Makes **Medicare claims data available** to states developing claims databases and to "qualified organizations," like employers, insurance companies, and consumers to help identify high quality doctors and hospitals.

Sponsored project spotlight:

Public health modernization project

Given the continued financial challenges facing Ohio's local public health entities, the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) has begun exploring ways that local public health departments and districts can share resources or take a more regional approach to their work.

Last month the AOHC contracted with HPIO to provide technical assistance on the Public Health Futures project.

HPIO completed the first phase of the project earlier this month. Among HPIO's activities in the initial phase of the project was convening a meeting of the Public Health Futures Committee, which consisted of local public health representatives from across the state. The feedback from that meeting was used to create a project plan and timeline for subsequent phases of the project.

If you would like more information about the Public Health Futures project, or would like to support it, contact AOHC Executive Director Beth Bickford at 614.781.9556 or aohc_1@aohc.net.

HPIO is interested in exploring opportunities for other sponsored projects, like the Public Health Futures Project, that align with HPIO's mission of informing policymakers on health policy issues.

Upcoming HPIO events

Jan. 26, 2012

Exploring the Basic Health Program Option: Impact on states and consumers

presented by CareSource

Speakers:

- Stan Dorn, Senior Fellow with the Urban Institute
- Jeremy Palmer, Principal and Consulting Actuary, Milliman

Feb. 29, 2012

Looking before leaping: An in-depth exploration of health benefit exchange options

presented by Anthem BlueCross BlueShield

Additional support provided by the Ohio Association of Health Underwriters

Speakers:

- Kenneth Munson, HHS Director Region V
- Tricia Brooks, Senior Fellow at Center for Children and Families, and Assistant Research Professor at Georgetown University Health Policy Institute
- Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, Director, ODI (invited)

May 3, 2012

Health Innovations in Ohio 2012: Smart investments for better health

HPIO will be hosting a full-day conference designed to foster innovative strategies to improve health care quality and control costs, and highlight policy changes that could support and replicate these innovations throughout Ohio.

Keynote Speaker: Arnold Milstein, MD, MPH; Professor of Medicine and Director of the Clinical Excellence Research Center at Stanford University; Medical Director of the Pacific Business Group on Health; and Co-founder of both the Leapfrog Group and the Consumer-Purchaser Disclosure

HPIO ACA-related activities

Since passage of the ACA in March, 2010, HPIO has provided policymakers and those who influence them resources to better understand the law and its impact on Ohio. Below is a list of our past work, as well as a snapshot of upcoming projects related to the health reform law.

Recent/past

- Published series of 8 ACA fact sheets
- Hosted educational forum "The Nuts & Bolts of Establishing a Health Insurance Exchange in Ohio" featuring Jon Kingsdale, executive director of the Massachusetts Health Connector
- Published policy brief "Understanding the Medicare ACO and Its Potential Impact on Ohio and the Nation: Considerations of CMS Draft Rules"
- Hosted forum "Paying for Health Care Value in Ohio: Implementing accountable care (ACO) in the public and private sectors" featuring Harold Miller, founding Executive Director of the national Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform
- Published two policy bulletins on ACA legal challenges
- Published policy brief "Federal rules for establishing health insurance exchange"
- Created online resource page on ACA challenge in Supreme Court
- Published policy brief "A closer look at the impact of federal reform on Ohio insurance markets"
- Published policy brief "Final rules for the Medicare Shared Savings Program"

Ongoing/future

- Hosting educational forum "Exploring the Basic Health Program Option: Impact on states and consumers," featuring Stan Dorn, Senior Fellow with the Urban Institute; and Jeremy Palmer, Principal and Consulting Actuary, Milliman (January 26, 2012) (more details to left)
- Hosting educational forum "Looking before leaping: An in depth exploration of health benefit exchange options" featuring Kenneth Munson, HHS Director Region V; Tricia Brooks, Senior Fellow at Center for Children and Families, and Assistant Research Professor at Georgetown University Health Policy Institute; and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, Director, ODI (invited) (February 29, 2012) (more details to left)
- Planning to publish a policy brief on federal rules for ACA "essential benefits" (pending approval of final rules)
- Organizing "Health Innovations in Ohio 2012: Smart investments for better health," which will highlight innovative strategies in Ohio, many of which are supported by the ACA