AMCHP 2015 Federal Policy Agenda

Priority I – AMCHP will play a lead role in advocating to:

- **Fund the Title V MCH Services Block Grant** at $639 million (the FY 2013 pre-sequester level) to improve the health of all women, children and families, including those with special health care needs and to strengthen state and national system capacity to assess and address the health needs of children and families.
- **Reauthorize Expiring Sections of the Title V Statute**, including the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV created as Section 511 of Title V Statute); the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP created as Section 513 of Title V); and the Family to Family Health Information Centers (F2Fs created as Section 501(c)(1)(A) of Title V).
- **Reauthorize funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** to assure continued coverage, benefits, and adequate cost-sharing protections for millions of children.
- **Optimally Implement MCH-Related Provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)** and provide state maternal and child health (MCH) leaders and their partners with the information, tools and resources to optimize the opportunities presented by the ACA and other national initiatives for improving services, systems, and health outcomes for MCH populations. (See specific priorities on reverse). [Should this continue as an explicit priority or is it ingrained in the landscape now?]

Priority II - AMCHP will actively work with key partners to:

- Support reauthorization to strengthen and provide adequate funding for key MCH programs, including the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program** and Part C of the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**.
- Support restoration of funding for **lead poisoning prevention** and related efforts addressing environmental threats to children's health.
- Advocate for implementation funding for the **Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act** and address Autism and other Developmental Disabilities by promoting expanded screening, early intervention and transition, and supporting implementation funding for the **Autism CARES Act** – emphasizing the active involvement of state Title V programs.
- Strengthen efforts to ensure **Medical Homes** for all children, especially those with special health care needs.
- Partner to Support **Comprehensive Approaches to Obesity**, with emphasis on programs addressing the childhood obesity epidemic.
- Expand access to **Safe Motherhood, Preconception Care and Family Planning Services**, including efforts to ensure access to comprehensive health care services, supports and efforts to promote intended pregnancies and healthy births.

Priority III - AMCHP will monitor, and support efforts as time and resources allow to:

- Advocate for **Funding of the Preventive Health Services Block Grant**.
- Support **Comprehensive Approaches to Chronic Disease Prevention** in women, children and adolescents.
- Support Efforts to **Promote Safe Communities and Prevent Childhood Injuries** including full funding to support core injury prevention programs in all states.
AMCHP Health Reform Implementation Priorities

Funding Priorities

• Promote the Home Visiting Program of the ACA
• Advocate that an adequate portion of the ACA Prevention and Public Health Fund address MCH issues
• Promote the ACA Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) focused on teen pregnancy prevention and coordinating with Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative ($100 in FY 2011) Abstinence, and Pregnancy Assistance Fund
• Partner in support of Community Health Center expansion

Promoting the Title V Role in Health Reform and Health Systems Development

• Continue to promote the essential and complementary role that state Title V programs play in health reform, particularly the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. These areas include but are not limited to the following:
  • Promote outreach to public and private insurance coverage and other insurance programs.
  • Promote utilization of clinical preventive services including Bright Futures Health Supervision Guidelines for Children, Women’s Preventive Services Guidelines, recommendations of the U.S. Preventive Health Services Task Force, and all recommended immunizations defined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.
  • Collaborate with state partners to assess and address shortages in primary, preventive and specialty care capacity.
  • Partner with other state agencies (e.g., Medicaid) to measure health system performance and promote quality improvement.
  • Provide assistance to individuals and families in appropriately accessing services and supports, especially low-income individuals and families of children with special health care needs.
  • Continue to assist states in building capacity to implement health reform, including core provisions of the ACA (e.g., expansion of health homes).

Promoting and Ensuring Access to Care

• Strengthen the role of state Title V MCH programs in working with Medicaid and CHIP agencies and the Insurance Marketplace in building and strengthening comprehensive, quality systems of care for MCH populations, including children and youth with special health care needs.
• Develop strategies to address increased demand for access to providers and the role of Title V in ensuring provision of enabling services, care coordination, population-based prevention and systems building services.
• Develop strategies to help ensure health system capacity and other crucial activities leading up to the 2014 coverage expansion.
• Define and promote, and develop related tools and resources on the roles of state Title V MCH programs in a reformed health care system and provide strategies and assistance to state Title V programs and their partners in this transition.