

Foster Youth and the Affordable Care Act

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AGENDA

1. Introduction to Foster Youth and the Affordable Care Act
2. Opportunities for Advocacy
3. Our Role in this Work
4. Questions?



Foster Youth and the ACA

- Over 400,000 children and youth lived in foster care during 2009
- These children and youth often have complex health care needs
- The law includes several provisions that are relevant to the foster youth and former foster youth population

Provisions of the ACA Relevant to Foster Youth

- Medicaid coverage for former foster youth
 - Beginning January 1, 2014, youth who turn 18 in foster care and are enrolled in Medicaid are eligible to continue Medicaid until age 26
- Maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting programs
 - States can tap additional funding for programs to support at-risk pregnant and parenting individuals to reduce neglect and abuse

Provisions of the ACA Relevant to Foster Youth

- Health homes
 - ACA created a definition to provide comprehensive, coordinated care to complex patient populations
- Increased flexibility to use home and community based services (HCBS)
 - States can cover these services with more latitude, preventing admissions
- Power of attorney requirement
 - Transition planning has to include education about power of attorney

Opportunities for Advocacy

- Encouraging states to think through the systems that are necessary to facilitate continued Medicaid enrollment for former foster youth
- Supporting service delivery models that are effective in providing care for this population
- Voicing concerns to CMS in advance of regulation/guidance about ambiguities of these provisions

Our Role

- Coauthored white paper with CCF
- Asked MassHealth what they are doing to prepare for implementation
- Profiling Rhode Island health home
- Working with CCF and CDF to generate questions and ideal answers about the provisions for CMS

Outstanding Questions for CMS

- Who exactly is eligible?
- How will enrollment work?
- What if a young person moves between states?
- What about individuals who become pregnant?
- What guidance will states receive about implementation?
- How will CMS enforce this provision?

QUESTIONS?



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Thank You

