

Amendment: 12

Representative Herbkersman proposes the following amendment:

Department of Health and Human Services

Amend

33.20. (DHHS: Medicaid Accountability and Quality Improvement Initiative) From the funds appropriated and authorized to the Department of Health and Human Services, the department is authorized to implement the following accountability and quality improvement initiatives:

~~(A) Healthy Outcomes Initiative — The Department of Health and Human Services may tie Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments to participation in the Healthy Outcomes Initiative and may expand the program as DSH funding is available.~~

~~—(B) Community Health Improvement Initiative - To improve community health, the department may explore various health *quality*, outreach, education, patient wellness and incentive programs. The department may pilot health interventions targeting diabetes, smoking cessation, weight management, heart disease, and other health conditions. These programs may be expanded as their potential to improve health and lower costs are identified by the department.~~

~~(B) Community Health Alignment Initiative - The department shall contract with the Center for Community Health Alignment (CCHA) at the University of South Carolina in a collaborative effort to expand the community health worker program to hospital settings. The goal of this program shall be to improve health outcomes for individuals that do not have access to affordable health insurance by facilitating resource connections and access to safety net providers. The department shall facilitate the Center's coordination of placement and funding of qualified community health workers in hospital settings to achieve program goals. The Center must provide the department with patient, service, and other data to assist in the operation and ongoing evaluation of this initiative. The department may tie hospital reimbursements, as appropriate, to participation in this Community Health Alignment Initiative.~~

~~(C) Rural Hospital DSH Payment — Medicaid designated rural hospitals in South Carolina may be eligible to receive up to one hundred percent of costs associated with uncompensated care as part of the DSH program. Funds shall be allocated from the existing DSH program. To be eligible, rural hospitals must participate in reporting and quality guidelines published by the department and outlined in the Healthy Outcomes Initiative. In addition to the requirements placed upon them by the department, rural hospitals must actively participate with the department and any other stakeholder identified by the department, in efforts to design an alternative health care delivery system in these regions. Improving Access Initiatives - The department may pursue Medicaid reimbursement and healthcare delivery methodologies to sustain and improve access to services particularly in underserved and designated rural areas. The department shall review existing reimbursement levels and, as funds are available, take measures to implement competitive rate structures that provide incentives for providers to treat Medicaid, uninsured, and underinsured individuals. These structures may include the use of disproportionate share, directed payments, and other~~

supplemental payment programs. Utilizing income, population, provider capacity, and other relevant data, the department may designate certain areas of the state as rural for Medicaid initiatives. To be eligible for these initiatives, the department may require providers to participate in quality, accountability, and reporting programs.

(D) Quality Through Technology and Innovation in Pediatrics (OTIP) Initiative – The department shall explore ways to enhance the existing OTIP program. The goal of this program is to improve quality measure outcomes, promote medical home concepts, and support mental health skill building and integration through targeted quality improvement and technical assistance to pediatric practices.

(E) Health Services Initiative – The department may use available funds from the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) allotment to implement specific health service initiatives to improve the public health of children, including targeted low-income children and other low-income children as defined in 42 CFR 457.10. These initiatives may include preventive care and other interventions that improve the overall health and mental well-being of children. These initiatives may not supplant federal funds currently used to provide services under the state’s CHIP program.

~~(DF) Primary Care Safety Net Initiative - The department shall implement a methodology to reimburse safety net providers participating in a hospital Healthy Outcomes Initiative program to provide primary care, behavioral health services, and pharmacy services for chronically ill individuals that do not have access to affordable insurance. Qualifying safety net providers are approved, licensed, and duly organized Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs and other entities receiving funding under Section 330 of the Public Health Services Act), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), local alcohol and drug abuse authorities established by Act 301 of 1973, Free Clinics, other clinics serving the uninsured, and Welvista. The department shall formulate a methodology and allocate \$3,600,000 for innovative care strategies for qualifying safety net providers. The department shall formulate a separate methodology and to allocate \$5,000,000 of funding to FQHCs, at least \$1,500,000 of funding for to Free Clinics throughout the state, and \$1,500,000 of funding for local alcohol and drug abuse authorities created under Act 301 of 1973, and up to \$4,000,000 for capital improvements to the Act 301 facilities through consultation with the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, to ensure funds are provided on a needs based approach. The department may continue to develop and implement a process for obtaining encounter-level data that may be used to assess the cost and impact of services provided through this proviso. ~~Any newly established Community Health Center/FQHC shall receive an amount equivalent to the average disbursement made to all centers/FQHCs.~~~~

~~(E) The department shall allocate funds to be used for obesity education for patients, reimbursement payments for providers, and continuing education for all providers through partnerships with the Department.~~

~~(FG) To be eligible for funds in this proviso, providers must provide the department with patient, service and financial data to assist in the operation and ongoing evaluation of both the initiatives resulting from this proviso, and other price, quality, transparency, and DSH accountability efforts currently underway or initiated by the department. The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office shall provide the department with any information required by the department in order to implement this proviso in accordance with state law and regulations.~~

~~(G) The department may pilot a behavioral health intervention program for wrap-around care to vulnerable mental health patients who frequent the emergency room in hotspots and underserved areas within the state. The pilot program must provide reports detailing progress on the target population and health outcomes achieved. These programs may be expanded as their potential to improve health and lower costs are identified by the department.~~

~~(H) The department annually shall publish quarterly reports on the agency’s website regarding the department’s progress in meeting the goals established by this provision evaluate each initiative within this provision to measure its effectiveness in meeting expected goals. The department shall continually monitor all third-party contracts employed under this provision to ensure that appropriations are being efficiently and effectively utilized for their intended purpose. The department also shall annually report on the results~~

of each evaluation to the House Ways and Means Healthcare Budget Subcommittee and the Senate Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

Ways and Means Committee Amendment