

Health Action NM 2019-2020 Policy Initiatives

Health Action NM Policy Priorities Adopted in 2019

- 1. Codification of core ACA consumer protections into state law (HB 436)**
 - a. Pre-existing condition protections, including essential health benefits
 - b. Non-discrimination protections
 - c. Consumer protections for Association Health Plans
 - d. Mental health parity
 - e. Updating insurance code
- 2. Authorization of Dental Therapists (HB 308)**
 - a. Allows dental therapists to train and practice in NM
 - b. Creates licensing process
 - c. Allows for general or off-site supervision after 2000 hours of clinical practice
 - d. Requires a degree in dental hygiene
 - e. Acknowledges that tribes can establish their own dental therapy programs that do not have to comply with state licensing requirements
 - f. Includes a provision requiring a review of efforts to establish the program after two years to identify issues and make policy recommendations
- 3. Medicaid Buy-in study funding and federal waiver authorization**
 - a. \$142,000 for study and administrative development
 - b. Authorization to pursue federal waivers and programs to implement a Medicaid Buy-in
- 4. Surprise billing protections (SB 337)**
 - a. Prohibits the practice of issuing medical charges beyond agreed upon cost sharing arrangement to insured patients who are out-of-network who did not knowingly seek out-of-network services
 - b. Guarantee of consumer reimbursement for overpayment
 - c. Institutes standards for consumer notification of network status
 - d. Establishes payment benchmarks for out-of-network services with a provision to review the impact on premiums if the benchmark constitutes overpayment
- 5. Rules on short-term health plans (HB 285)**
 - a. Gives OSI broad authority to regulate:
 - i. Coverage duration
 - ii. Rating standards
 - iii. A medical loss ratio
 - iv. Benefits
 - v. Marketing and consumer notification
 - b. Bans short-term association health plans
 - c. Updates insurance code
- 6. Establishment of Interagency Pharmaceutical Purchasing Council (SB 131)**
 - a. Creates an interagency council to review and coordinate cost-containment strategies for the procurement of pharmaceuticals and pharmacy benefits and the pooling of risk for pharmacy services by the constituent agencies
 - b. Encourages the state to increase and leverage purchasing power to reduce prescription drug costs and identify potential solutions for private payers
 - c. Included financing for full-time staff and start-up costs

2020 Policy Initiatives

1. Medicaid Buy-in

- a. HSD is conducting a robust analysis of the uninsured and underinsured in NM
- b. HANM and coalition members are regularly meeting with administration officials to advise them on the MBI study
- c. Our coalition continues to engage stakeholders, policymakers, and administration officials to generate progress on this initiative

2. Drug pricing reforms

- a. HANM is monitoring prescription drug pricing reforms in other states
- b. Staff has developed a proposal to build a coalition around reform efforts

3. Health insurance affordability and enrollment initiatives

- a. HANM is working with Families USA to develop a series of policy options to improve health care affordability for New Mexicans
- b. Lowering premiums and cost sharing charged to consumers in the exchange, especially for lower/middle income communities, Native Americans, those with high health needs, and young people, including through innovative measures to finance additional assistance without calling on scarce general fund dollars.
- c. Using the state tax filing system to identify and enroll uninsured people in quality and affordable health coverage, building on the above-noted Maryland legislation and incorporating the results of research Dorn helped conduct while serving as a senior fellow at the Urban Institute finding that income tax returns were filed by 59 percent of New Mexico's Medicaid-eligible adults, 71 percent of Medicaid-eligible children, and 92 percent of uninsured consumers eligible for premium tax credits under the ACA;
- d. Identifying opportunities to leverage New Mexico's forthcoming state-based marketplace platform to improve the consumer shopping experience, enroll individuals who become ineligible for Medicaid, and maximize coverage and enrollment; and
- e. Improving the stability and lowering average costs in the individual market's risk pool, including by providing financial incentives for enrollment that fill the gap left when the federal government stopped enforcing the ACA's individual coverage requirement.

4. Dental Therapy implementation.

- a. Monitor rule making by Dental Board
- b. Work with community colleges including SIPI
- c. Support tribes in working with Arizona and other state's tribes in implementing dental therapy under tribal sovereignty.
- d. Assist create rural and underserved pipelines into dental therapy programs.
- e. Sit on Oral Health Task Force to review barriers for children obtaining dental care under Medicaid.

5. Work on recommendations under OSI task force to review the NM Patient Protection Act - due in the fall.

6. Work with AARP and Dept on Aging to begin a process to create a successful blueprint for a public and private successful aging in New Mexico.

7. Build an older adult advocacy coalition starting with mobilizing around taxing of social security taxes in NM