

MHAC
Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
January 9, 2009
10:00 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. EST

MHAC Attendees: Lucie Ferguson, Rudolph Wilson

MHAC Absent: Michael Pyles, Claudia Tellez

OMHPHP Staff: Susan Triggs

Public Attendees: None

Rudy Wilson led the meeting in Claudia Tellez's absence. Prior minutes were discussed but not approved.

- **Obesity**
 - Lucie Ferguson advised that she had received information that some of the Tobacco Settlement money will be used to help with statewide obesity prevention

- **Medicaid**
 - Attendees discussed their understanding that the Obama plan will offer \$100 million to help shore up Medicaid and Medicare
 - This offers the states relief on a more immediate basis and may be available as soon as April or May
 - MHAC should ask members to write letters of support to their legislative representatives
 - It is most important to support maintaining steady reimbursements for physicians
 - One suggestion was to work to keep physicians on board through short-term or long-term reimbursements

- **Prenatal Care**
 - Lucie Ferguson has learned that two rural OB centers are being cut due to the state budget shortfall
 - Clinic availability would be
 - Only available to women with problem-free pregnancies
 - Unavailable high-risk women, leaving them with no options locally
 - Susan Triggs will ask Kathy Wibberly, Director, Division of Primary Care and Rural Health of the OMHPHP, for more information in this regard and report back to members

- **Current Legislative Policy Agenda**
 - There is a consensus that members need to find out if health-related legislation/policies are on the agenda for the current General Assembly session
 - Rudy Wilson will talk to Susan Spane, an attorney in the Division of Legislative Services

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- Susan Triggs will talk to Dr. Royster and request this issue be discussed and/or presented at the larger MHAC meeting on January 13th
- Lucie Ferguson will see Joe Hilbert in another meeting where he is expected to discuss this and will make any handouts she receives available to everyone on the subcommittee

- **National Health Summit**
 - Rudy Wilson is planning to attend the National Health Summit in King of Prussia, PA in February.
 - He suspects the focus will be on health equity for individuals living in poverty
 - Rudy will report back to the group regarding how the governmental stimulus package factors into this issue

- **Reporting**
 - Rudy Wilson will report on this subcommittee's activities at the MHAC meeting on Tuesday.

- **Next Meeting Date**
 - The next meeting date will be determined and everyone notified
 - The group will discuss meeting dates and times for the year at the next meeting

- **Public Comment**
 - There was no public comment

Minutes completed and submitted by Susan L. Triggs