

Legislative Advocacy Training Initiative

Session 5



**A Florida Pediatric Advocacy Network inspired project
funded by the University of Miami and hosted by Florida CHAIN**

Agenda

- Review of LATI Course
- Legislative Update

Hosted by
Linda Merrell and Lisa Margulis
Florida CHAIN

Review of Topics Covered

- Powers and process of Florida's government
- Communicating with legislators
- Child health access issues (state and federal)
- Advocacy action
- Coalition building
- Legislative tracking

Advocacy Tools For Success

- Knowledge of legislative process
- Advocacy technical skills
- Resources of information for policy updates and policy briefs
- Communication skills



Legislative Session Issues

- KidCare
- Healthy Start
- Medicaid Reform
- IDEA Part C Early Intervention-Prevention
- Florida Pediatric Society Issues



Strategies for Action



Public Awareness
Letters to the Editor
Coalition building
Conference calls
E-advocacy campaign
Personal contacts
Public testimony

KidCare – Good News

- Children ages 1-4 with family incomes greater than 200% of federal poverty level will now be able to participate in MediKids (full pay Title XXI KidCare program).
- Increased awareness of the complex KidCare program for Legislators and the general public were raised.

200% of Federal Poverty Level 2006

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>200% FPL</u>
1	\$19,600
2	\$26,400
3	\$33,200
4	\$40,000
5	\$46,800
6	\$53,600
7	\$60,400

KidCare – Bad News

- \$168 million reduction eliminates potential coverage for 128,000 children.
- KidCare bills to improve program efficiency were defeated.
- Outreach and enrollment were limited.
- Restoration for non-Title XXI legal immigrant and state employees was not reinstated.

Hooray for Healthy Start!

- Funding increased to \$11 million to improve birth outcomes and serve more at risk women.
- Early pre-natal screening and support services reduce infant mortality and morbidity.



Medicaid Reform

- Multiple attempts to expand beyond the two pilots failed.
- Public forums and comments from consumers and providers convened.
- Monitoring and involvement from advocacy groups were constant.
- Florida CHAIN created Medicaid Reform Advocates Coalitions in pilot counties (for more information, contact Lisa Margulis at Florida CHAIN at 954-791-7314 or lisam@floridachain.org).

Updates since session

IDEA Part C- Early Step Intervention

- The program uses Federal and State funding to provide therapies for children 0-3 so they can complete their developmental milestones if it has been determined that there is a developmental delay.
- State allocates \$5 million for a program that requires \$10 million.

Florida Pediatric Society

- Suicide Prevention (S1008/H527)
- Universal Health Care for Children (S310)
- Fish Consumption and Health (S1302)
- Prevention of Obesity (S1324)
- Heller Hall/Curran Center/USF (S1086;H0019)
- Dori Slosberg Safety Belt Law (H97)
- Schools/Health Related Education (H679)
- School Food Service Program/Fructose (H629)
- Cystic Fibrosis Treatment (S376)
- Unattended/Unsupervised Child/Auto (S910)
- High School Drug Testing (S1928/H1005)
- Mature Driver's Act (S1852/H975)

For tracking or more information,
go to www.flsenate.gov or www.myfloridahouse.gov.

On The Horizon



- KidCare:
Chance to revisit during Special Session for Medicaid Long Term Care Pilot Program
- Medicaid Reform:
Unfinished issues with consumer standards of care and services
- Increase public awareness and participation in the process

This Is Only The Beginning!

- **Know that your voice matters!**
- **Stay updated on the issues.**
- **Keep track of what your legislators are doing and let them know that you're doing that.**
- **Whatever you do, NEVER GIVE UP!**

