

**EFFECTIVE COVERAGE EXPANSIONS FOR UNINSURED KIDS  
AND THEIR WORKING PARENTS:  
LINKS TO JOB-BASED COVERAGE**

a policy conference on coordinating with employment-based health coverage to cover uninsured working families.

Sponsored by the Institute for Health Policy Solutions  
and  
The National Governors' Association

The Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Washington, D.C.  
May 18, 2001

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**Conference Transcript**

*Effective Coverage Expansions for Uninsured Kids and Their Working Parents:  
Links to Job-Based Coverage*

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*Conference Transcript: Introduction and Agenda*

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**Introduction**

A growing number of states are moving to cover uninsured modest-income parents and, by covering the whole family under the same plan, more effectively reach their uninsured children. But, because the cost of family coverage is substantially higher, and the incentive to drop employer coverage correspondingly stronger, there is also a heightened interest in expansions that will build on rather than undermine the job-based coverage that most such families have, and that will strengthen rather than compromise continuity of care and provider relationships.

“Effective Coverage Expansions for Uninsured Kids and Working Families: Links to Job-Based Coverage” brought together state and federal policy officials, private-sector leaders and expert analysts to discuss how coverage of parents benefits children, as well as issues and creative opportunities for public-private collaboration to expand health insurance coverage of modest-income uninsured working families and their children through the work place. The May 18, 2001, conference was sponsored by the National Governors’ Association (NGA) and the Institute for Health Policy Solutions (IHPS), with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

This document presents a complete, essentially verbatim transcript of the presentations and discussions at the conference. Presenters were offered the opportunity to edit (lightly) their presentations for clarity and accuracy, and several did so. IHPS staff reviewed the entire document, edited (again, very lightly) where necessary to assure clarity, and inserted many, but not all, of the speakers’ slides into the text at the appropriate points.

This meeting was held at a time when the need to extend health coverage to the uninsured is again coming to the forefront of the nation’s policy agenda. The Bush Administration has proposed health insurance tax credits for people who cannot get coverage through their employer, and the Congressional Budget Resolution for fiscal 2002 includes \$28 billion for covering the uninsured.

There is broad interest in finding ways to add to rather than merely substitute for existing coverage, and to facilitate rather than impede the ability of parents and their children to enroll as a family in one plan. These proceedings are being made available in the hope that they can inform policies that will successfully extend coverage and continuity of care to the uninsured.

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**AGENDA / TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 8:30 a.m.     **Opening Remarks [pp.1-10]**
- Ray Scheppach, Executive Director, National Governors' Association
  - Rick Curtis, President, Institute for Health Policy Solutions
- 8:45 a.m.     **Oregon's Plan for Coverage and Continuity of Provider Care for Uninsured Families [pp. 11-28]**
- John Santa, MD, Administrator, Oregon Health Plan.
  - Kevin Earls, Vice President Finance and Health Policy, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (Invited)
  - Robert DiPrete, Deputy Administrator, Office for Oregon Health Plan Policy and Research
- 9:30 a.m.     **Uninsured Working Parents and Small Employers: Attitudes and Experience [pp. 29-50]**
- Michael Perry, President, Social Policy Research Institute
  - Kathlyn Mead, CEO, Sharp Health Plan, San Diego
- Moderator: Liane Wong, IHPS
- 10:10 a.m.    **Break**
- 10:25 a.m.    **A Study of Past Public Insurance Expansions and Crowd-Out of Private Coverage [pp. 51-58]**
- Susan Marquis, Senior Economist, RAND
- Moderator: Joan Henneberry, NGA
- 10:50 a.m.    **Hindsight and Foresight: Lessons for Getting It Rite [pp. 59-78]**
- Peter Quattromani, Office of Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Almond
  - Christine Ferguson, Director, RI Department of Human Services
  - Sid Goldman, Greylawn Foods, RItCare Business Advisory Panel
  - Sandra Ferretti, United Healthcare of New England
- 11:50 a.m.    **Lunch at the Almas Temple, next to the Crowne Plaza on K Street.**
- 12:45 p.m.    **The White House Perspective [pp. 79-90]**
- Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., Consultant, Council of Economic Advisors

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- 1:15 p.m.     **Coverage Goals and Implementation Experience [pp. 91-116]**
- Anita Smith, Manager, Health Insurance Purchasing Unit, Iowa Department of Human Services
  - Beth Waldman, Acting Director of Program Implementation, Massachusetts Division of Medical Assistance
  - Don Schneider, Chief, Coordination of Benefits, Wisconsin Division of Health Care Financing
  - Kathryn Plant, Deputy Director, New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services
- Moderator: Ed Neuschler, IHPS
- 2:30 p.m.     **Why and Where There's Wills and Ways for Strategic Partnerships [pp. 117-137]**
- D. Mark Weinberg, Group President, WellPoint Health Networks
  - Gerald Shea, Assistant to the President for Government Affairs, AFL-CIO [Marilyn Park substituted for Mr. Shea.]
- 3:15 p.m.     **Break**
- 3:30 p.m.     **The Dynamics of Coverage Status [pp. 138-148]**
- Linda Bilheimer, Senior Economist, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- 4:00 p.m.     **Where We're Going ("from C to C") [pp. 149-165]**
- David Parrella, Director, Connecticut Medical Care Administration
  - Phil Vogel, Connecticut Business and Industry Association
  - Sandra Shewry, Executive Director, California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board and California Healthy Families Program
- Moderator: Rafe Forland, IHPS
- 4:30 p.m.     **Closing Remarks [pp. 166-168]**
- Rick Curtis, President, Institute for Health Policy Solutions

**Appendix: "Some Basic Facts about Children, Working Parents, and Employment-Based Health Insurance," compiled by the Institute for Health Policy Solutions**