

**Los Angeles – Healthcare Provider Alliance for Children
Children’s Health Policy Agenda 2011
Reviewed by Coalition on January 19, 2011**

The guiding principles of LA-HPAC’s Children’s Health Policy Agenda are:

- Increase the number of children in Los Angeles County ages 0-5 enrolled in a health insurance plan.
- Decrease the frequency and duration of lapses in health insurance coverage.
- Ensure an Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program-equivalent or better benefit package for all children, including mental health, vision and dental services.
- Minimize cost-sharing to a reasonable percentage of income, in particular for preventive care visits

Based on our previous meetings with the Coalition’s Policy Committee, LA-HPAC leadership has identified the following goals for focused advocacy and strategic partnerships that support our mission and respond to important children’s health policy issues in Los Angeles and California:

Goal #1 Increase health care coverage for children, in particular in the following sub-sets:

- Enhance and simplify enrollment capabilities and consumer knowledge of public and private insurance programs
- Provide input into the Medi-Cal Waiver implementation to minimize the number of children inadvertently dropped during the upcoming transition
- Encourage fair payment for physicians treating young children so children have access to quality care

Goal #2 Enhance or maintain a comprehensive benefits package for children in Los Angeles

- Work with other groups to establish a benchmark for child health benefits to guide health reform implementation
- Advocate for local government to prioritize funding for children’s health programs to maximize federal matching funds
- Ensure appropriate funding for mental health programs under EPSDT
- Support local and state policies that enhance prevention and early detection for children in the areas of obesity, mental health and behavior

Goal #3 Encourage quality assurance during this time of change in health care

- Increase workforce development/training of pediatric providers to care for the newly insured
- Encourage the development and implementation of pediatric-specific quality indicators, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures guidelines for preventive care

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