



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: April 23, 2021
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
FROM: Dawn O'Connell, Senior Counselor for COVID Response
SUBJECT: Daily COVID-19 Briefing

Details

What: Daily COVID-19 Briefing

Date: April 26, 2021

Time: 10:00-10:30am ET

Location: Zoom

<https://hhs.gov.zoomgov.com>

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Internal or External Event: Internal

HHS Staff: Please see list of participants below

Press: No

Topic:

Discussion of daily relevant COVID-19 response issues.

Objective:

Daily check-in with HHS COVID-19 Response Core Team leaders to update/discuss pressing issues/worrying concerns.

Secretary's Role:

Listen, engage, and ask questions.

List of Participants:

Dawn O'Connell, Senior Counselor for COVID Response
AJ Pearlman, Chief of Staff for COVID Response
Sean McCluskie, HHS Chief of Staff
Ian Sams, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

Agenda:

Proposed standing agenda items – data to be shared daily:

- I. State of the Pandemic
- II. Concerns/Worries
- III. Work Ahead
- IV. Opportunities for YOUR Engagement
- V. Prep for COVID-19 White House Meetings (If needed)

Notes:

Data and updates to be shared daily.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: April 26, 2021
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
FROM: Dawn O'Connell, Senior Counselor for COVID Response
SUBJECT: Daily COVID-19 Briefing

Details

What: Daily COVID-19 Briefing

Date: April 27, 2021

Time: 11:00-11:30am ET

Location: Zoom

<https://hhs.gov.zoomgov.com/> (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Internal or External Event: Internal

HHS Staff: Please see list of participants below

Press: No

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Notes:

Data and updates to be shared daily.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: April 23, 2021

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Anne Reid, Deputy Chief of Staff

FROM: Christi A. Grimm, Principal Deputy Inspector General

SUBJECT: Introductory Briefing – Office of Inspector General (OIG) – INFORMATION

Details:

What: Introductory Briefing – Office of Inspector General (OIG)

Date: April 27, 2021

Time: 12:00-12:30pm ET

Location: Zoom

<https://hhs.gov.zoomgov.com/>

(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Internal or External Event: Internal.

- OIG 101 Background Document (attached)

Press: No

Topic:

OIG's Oversight Priorities

Objective:

OIG's objective is to provide an overview of OIG's oversight role and priorities.

Secretary's Role:

This is an informational briefing.

List of Participants:

Christi A. Grimm, Principal Deputy Inspector General
Juliet T. Hodgkins, Acting Chief of Staff
Gary L. Cantrell, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations
Gregory E. Demske, Chief Counsel to the Inspector General
Amy J. Frontz, Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services
Ann Maxwell, Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections
Robert Owens, Deputy Inspector General for Management and Policy
Vicki L. Robinson, Senior Counselor for Policy
Anne Reid, Deputy Chief of Staff
Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff

Agenda:

12:00pm ET: Introduction, Christi A. Grimm
12:03pm ET: Presentation, OIG Executives
12:20pm ET: Questions and Answers

Background:

Your office requested this introductory briefing about OIG's oversight role and priorities.

OIG's mission is to provide objective oversight to promote the economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) programs, as well as the health and welfare of the people they serve. Established in 1976, OIG is the largest civilian Office of Inspector General in the Federal Government, responsible for oversight of HHS's \$2.4 trillion portfolio of health and human services programs. OIG is a multidisciplinary organization comprised of more than 1,600 auditors, investigators, and evaluators, supplemented by staff with expertise in law, technology, cybersecurity, data analytics, statistics, medicine, economics, health policy, and management and administration. Based on Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey scores, OIG has been ranked the best place to work (No. 1) at HHS for 5 consecutive years by the Partnership for Public Service.

OIG pursues three strategic goals: 1) fighting fraud, waste, and abuse; 2) promoting quality, safety, and value in health and human services programs; and 3) advancing excellence and innovation. We execute our mission through audits, evaluations, investigations, enforcement, and data analytics. OIG's work holds wrongdoers accountable, promotes compliance with program rules, identifies misspent funds and potential program savings, assesses program effectiveness and efficiency, and makes recommendations to strengthen program operations and management.

OIG investigates criminal, civil, and administrative violations. OIG pursues fraud in HHS programs using its own administrative enforcement tools—including civil monetary penalties and exclusions—in conjunction with law enforcement partners including the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Medicaid Fraud Control Units. As appropriate, OIG

also works with HHS staff and operating divisions, other executive branch agencies, Congress, States, and private sector representatives to advance program integrity.

For purposes of this briefing, we will highlight the following oversight priorities:

- The opioid epidemic
- Cybersecurity
- Emergency preparedness, including the COVID-19 response
- Beneficiary safety and quality of care
- Medicaid program integrity and care delivery

Additional OIG areas of focus include: safeguarding Medicare Trust Funds; overseeing health information and other technologies; and lowering prescription drug spending for patients and programs. OIG priorities evolve in response to emerging risks and program changes. OIG is bringing an equity lens to our work across priority areas.

OIG supports its work with highly sophisticated, state-of-the-art data analytics to uncover outliers, detect trends, and develop leads for further investigations, auditing, and evaluations. OIG's funding shapes our oversight activities. For fiscal year 2021, OIG's budget is \$404.9 million. Approximately 80 percent of our funding is dedicated to the oversight of Medicare and Medicaid, HHS's largest programs. Our remaining funding is used for the oversight of HHS's other health and human services programs.

Attachments:

1. OIG 101 Background Document



OIG 101.pdf



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: April 29, 2021
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
FROM: Dawn O'Connell, Senior Counselor for COVID Response
SUBJECT: Weekly COVID-19 Senior Leadership Meeting

Details

What: Meeting of the Secretary's Senior Advisors on COVID-19

Date: April 30, 2021

Time: 7:00-7:30am PT/ 10:00-10:30am ET

Location: Zoom

<https://hhsgov.zoomgov.com/join/91234567890> (b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Topic:

Discussion of relevant COVID-19 response issues.

Objective:

Opportunity for you to hear from key senior leaders about COVID-19 issues and concerns of the day as you prepare for the week ahead.

Secretary's Role:

Listen, engage, and ask questions.

List of Participants:

Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID Director and Chief Medical Officer
Dr. Rochelle Walensky, CDC Director
Dr. Janet Woodcock, Acting FDA Commissioner
Dr. Marcella Nunez Smith, Chair of the Equity Task Force
Dawn O'Connell, Senior Counselor for COVID Response
Sean McCluskie, HHS Chief of Staff
Dr. Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health
Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General

Agenda:

- I. Introductions
- II. State of the Pandemic—Dr. Rochelle Walensky / Dr. Anthony Fauci
- III. Updates on Work for Week Ahead
- IV. Discussion: Thorny Issues/Concerns—ALL



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: April 28, 2021
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
THROUGH: Rachel Pryor, Counselor
FROM: Elizabeth Richter, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
SUBJECT: Implementation of the Title I (No Surprises Act) and Title II (Transparency) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021- BRIEFING

Details:

What: Briefing: Implementation of the Title I (No Surprises Act) and Title II (Transparency) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Date: April 30, 2021

Time: 8:00-8:30am PT/ 11:00-11:30am ET

Location: Zoom

<https://hhs.gov.zoomgov.com> (b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Internal or External Event: Internal Briefing (paper attached)

HHS Staff: Sean McCluskie (Chief of Staff) and Rachel Pryor (Counselor for Health Policy)

Press: No

Topic:

Overview of implementation of the Title I (No Surprises Act) and Title II (Transparency) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

Objective:

To provide you with an overview of implementation of the Title I (No Surprises Act) and Title II (Transparency) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

Secretary's Role:

Participant

List of Participants:

Sean McCluskie, IOS	Deborah Bryant, CMS	Kathleen Cantwell, CMS
Rachel Pryor, IOS	Lindsey Murtagh, CMS	Daniel Barry, OGC
Karuna Seshasai, IOS	Jacob Ackerman, CMS	Paul Rodriguez, OGC
Aaron Fischbach, IOS	Christina Whitefield, CMS	Janice Hoffman, OGC
Erin Sutton, CMS	Elizabeth Richter, CMS	Rebecca Haffajee, ASPE
Jeff Wu, CMS	Kelly O'Brien, CMS	Ben Sommers, ASPE
Jeffrey Grant, CMS	Kiahana Brooks, CMS	Norris Cochran, ASFR
Rogelyn McLean, CMS	Janny Frimpong, CMS	Anne Tatem, ASL
Samara Lorenz, CMS	Arielle Woronoff, CMS	Marvin Figueroa, IEA
Leslie Wagstaffe, CMS	Jennifer Boulanger, CMS	

Background:

Title I (No Surprises Act) and Title II (Transparency) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), establish new protections for consumers related to surprise billing and transparency in health care. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in coordination with the Department of Labor (DOL) and the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) (and to a lesser degree the Department of Transportation and other federal and external components), is responsible for implementation and, along with state regulatory entities, enforcement of these new requirements.

The No Surprises Act includes provisions that are intended to provide a broad approach to protect consumers from surprise medical bills, including air ambulance services. Title I also includes a grant program providing states money to support the implementation of, or improvements to, a State All Payer Claims Database. Additionally, Title I includes a number of provisions to promote transparency regarding the costs of health care services.

The No Surprises Act also requires the establishment of three advisory committees that require varying levels of participation from HHS: (1) an Air Ambulance Quality and Patient Safety Advisory Committee, led by HHS; (2) an Advisory Committee to Review Ground Ambulance Services, led by HHS; and (3) a State All Payer Claims Database Advisory Committee, led by DOL.

Title II includes transparency provisions, which remove gag clauses on price and quality information; require individual market issuers and short-term, limited-duration plans to disclose direct and indirect compensation for agents and brokers; strengthen mental health parity by requiring plans and issuers that impose non-quantitative treatment limits (NQTLs) on mental health/substance use disorder benefits to perform comparative analyses of the design and application of NQTLs and requires HHS to conduct audits of such comparative analyses; and require group health plans and health insurance issuers to report data on health care spending, and pharmacy benefits and drug costs.

The CAA includes several deadlines for agency action that must be completed within an extremely short timeline in order to provide consumers the protections as defined.

Attachments:

1. Implementation of the Title I (No Surprises Act) and Title II (Transparency) of Division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021- INFORMATON



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: April 28, 2021
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
THROUGH: Kristin Avery, White House Liaison
FROM: Shannon Myricks, Deputy White House Liaison
SUBJECT: Political Appointee All Hands Meeting

Details

What: Political Appointee All Hands Meeting

Date: April 30, 2021

Time: 11:00am PT / 2:00pm ET

Location: Zoom

<https://hhs.gov.zoomgov.com> (b)(6)

Internal or External Event: Internal

HHS Staff: Kristin Avery (White House Liaison) and Shannon Myricks (Deputy White House Liaison)

Press: No

Topic:

HHS Political Appointee All Hands Meeting - 100th Day Celebration

Objective:

YOU will attend the weekly HHS Political Appointee All Hands Meeting for 5 minutes [at the top of the call] to:

- (1) Greet the HHS Political Appointees.
- (2) Congratulate appointees on reaching 100 Days of the Biden-Harris Administration.
- (3) Highlight the accomplishments of various StaffDivs/OpDivs.
- (4) Deliver a rousing call to action to keep up the good work and continue leaning out of the box.

Secretary's Role:

Speaker

Secretary's Message:

- YOU will greet HHS Political Appointees (“PAs”).
- YOU will give optimistic remarks on reaching the 100th Day of the Biden-Harris Administration.
- YOU will outline the following accomplishments:
 - We have responded to COVID-19 with a robust response approach.
 - The 150th millionth vaccine dose was administered, and we launched the COVID-19 Health Center Vaccine Program.
 - We are making headway on weaving racial equity into the fabric of HHS.
 - We communicated via memo to all Operating and Staff Divisions HHS’s department-wide commitment to and efforts on equity.
 - The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation published an issue brief that describes health disparities among various racial and ethnic minority populations and the CDC/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) declared racism a serious public health threat.
 - We have worked with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health to develop the 2021 HHS Climate action plan and HHS Environmental Justice Program.
 - We are working to mitigate the economy effects due to the pandemic.
 - The Administration on Children, Youth, and Families released a Program Instruction explaining how Title IV-E agencies should carry out provisions of the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, allowing for flexibilities to prevent youth from aging out of foster care during the pandemic.
 - The Office of Head Start issued a Program Instruction regarding supplemental funds available to support Head Start grantees’ continued response to COVID-19.
 - We are beginning to improve our global standing.
 - The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) participated in WHO Executive Board meetings and a follow-on Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT-A) Accelerator Facilitation Council meeting where we reiterated the U.S. government’s commitment to the global response to COVID-19, ACT-A, and WHO.
 - Part of improving our global standing includes a humane and holistic approach to immigration.
 - Since January 20, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has united more than 14,000 unaccompanied children with their family member or sponsor, has added more than 13,350 beds to serve unaccompanied children, and has served more than 28,500 unaccompanied children.
 - The ORR has also assisted more than 2,050 refugees rebuild their lives in the United States.
 - We are also increasing access to Health care.
 - We announced a special enrollment period (SEP) which has allowed 528,000 Americans to sign up for health insurance.
 - We have also added additional funds to Navigator grantees, provided tax credits for individuals who pay for their own health care, and expanded access to Medicaid by withdrawing work requirements.

- ...And so much more!
- The work is just getting started. This group of appointees will lead in shaping the work of HHS and implementing the Biden-Harris agenda. Continue leaning out of the box, roll your sleeves up and get ready for the next 100 days!

Acknowledgements:

The 100th Day of the Administration was April 29th.

List of Participants:

All HHS Political Appointees currently on staff (~89)

Agenda:

2:00pm ET / 11:00am PT | Call starts
 2:03pm ET / 11:03am PT | YOU join the call
 2:03pm ET / 11:03am PT | Kristin Avery, WHL, kicks off call & hands floor to Sean
 2:04pm ET / 11:04am PT | Sean McCluskie, COS will introduce YOU
 2:05pm ET / 11:05am PT | YOU will START speaking
 2:10pm ET / 11:10am PT | YOU will END remarks & hand the floor back to Sean
 2:10pm ET / 11:10am PT | Kristin Avery, WHL, will introduce guest presenters

Background:

Each Friday, all Health and Human Services political appointees meet for 30 minutes to build fellowship, receive announcements and updates from leadership, and participate in show-and-tell presentations from various departments and offices. Periodically, we have guest speakers from HHS departments and special events. This week, we are marking the 100th Day of the Administration by having special guest speakers join the call to celebrate and congratulate political appointee staff on reaching the 100th Day of the Biden-Harris Administration. We will also have key leaders of StaffDivs/OpDivs give short presentations on the accomplishments outlined in the 100 Day report (see attached).

Attachments:

1. HHS Agency 100 Day Report



HHS_Agency 100
Day Report.pdf



DATE: April 26, 2021
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
THROUGH: Rachel Pryor, Counselor for Health Policy
FROM: Elizabeth Richter, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
SUBJECT: Introduction to the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO)—BRIEFING

Details

What: Introduction to the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO)

Date: April 30, 2021

Time: 1:00-1:30pm PT / 4:00-4:30pm ET

Location: Zoom

<https://hhs.gov.zoomgov.com/> (b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Internal or External Event: Internal

HHS Staff: Sean McCluskie (Chief of Staff) and Rachel Pryor (Counselor for Health Policy)

Press: No

Topic:

Overview of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO).

Objective:

To provide you with an overview of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight.

Secretary's Role:

Participant

List of Participants:

Elizabeth Richter, CMS
Jeff Wu, CMS
Jeffrey Grant, CMS
Rogelyn McLean, CMS
Michelle Koltov, CMS
Kiahana Brooks, CMS
Janny Frimpong, CMS
Lisa Wilson, CMS

Arielle Woronoff, CMS
Jennifer, Boulanger, CMS
Kathleen Cantwell, CMS
Clare Pierce-Wrobel, IOS
Karuna Seshasai, IOS
Wilma Robinson, IOS
Aaron Fischbach, IOS
Daniel Barry, OGC

Paul Rodriguez, OGC
Rebecca Haffajee, ASPE
Benjamin Sommers, ASPE
Norris Cochran, ASFR
Anne Tatem, ASL
Marvin Figueroa, IEA
Sean McCluskie, IOS
Rachel Pryor, IOS

Background:

CCIIO is charged with helping implement many reforms of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the historic health reform bill that was signed into law March 23, 2010. CCIIO oversees the implementation of the provisions related to private health insurance. CCIIO works closely with state regulators, consumers, and other stakeholders to ensure the ACA best serves the American people.

CCIIO's core objectives are to promote a stable individual health insurance market and facilitate enrollment in quality coverage to reduce the uninsured rate. CCIIO was created to stand up a variety of new programs to implement the ACA, including the sale of insurance on HealthCare.gov. Originally housed within the Office of the Secretary, CMS brought CCIIO in-house in 2011 to take advantage of the CMS-enterprise expertise, such as consumer outreach and grantmaking. Since 2011, the organization has grown from a small, nascent organization with a small footprint to an enterprise with 420+ employees. Our organization has led policy and operations of the entire Exchange since its inception, our annual contracting and interagency agreement budget following the launch of Healthcare.gov was over \$2.1 billion. In recent years, through efficiencies and investments in infrastructure, we are successfully operating within a budget of \$1.55 billion.

As a regulator in the health care market, CCIIO works to ensure that millions of people have insurance policies that are compliant with all of the requirements and consumer protections of the ACA. We provide healthcare through the Exchanges to over 11 million people. The Exchange is a complex, 24/7 enterprise, particularly during open enrollment, but with other peak operational challenges throughout the year. Career operational and technology staff work year-round to improve and invest in the functioning of the Exchange, and our operations have become more and more efficient through the years.

In addition to the work to run the Exchanges, we share interpretive jurisdiction over the market reforms and consumer protections in various statutes, with joint jurisdiction with Labor (DOL) and the Treasury. We also oversee market-wide regulation, policies, and programs that impact the healthcare market. Finally, we are charged with implementation of the programs to mitigate risk and adverse selection in the individual and small group markets, where we oversee approximately \$50 billion in subsidy payments and risk adjustment transfers to health insurance issuers each year. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, CCIIO provided states and issuers numerous flexibilities, enforcement discretion, and waivers to protect the health and safety of individuals with group and individual health insurance.

The key stakeholder groups that CCIIO deals with regularly are the issuers (and their four trade associations – AHIP, BCBSA, ACAP, and ACHP – note that United Healthcare is not a member of one of the trade associations); consumers and consumer groups (advocacy organizations, tribal organizations, the “disease groups”); and states, state regulators, and State Marketplaces. We also deal more occasionally with other groups (including provider organizations, agent and broker organizations, web-brokers, the actuarial community, consumer stakeholders, employee benefits organizations, private exchange platforms, and the Wall Street analyst community). Given recent legislation granting HHS certain oversight authorities over providers, we anticipate that CCIIO will develop new relationships with providers and provider organizations such that our contacts with these groups will increase.

As the regulator of a market that is undergoing major changes, and as a major market player ourselves, we have learned the importance of maintaining strong relationships with all these groups, in particular the state regulators and issuers. We seek to stay close to regulators through regular policy sessions and by attending National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) conferences, and we seek to stay close to the issuers through regular operational sessions and regular communications with their senior leadership.

Attachment:

1. CCIIO Slide Deck



Sec. Briefing - Intro to
CCIIO.pptx