

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

for

HHS SECRETARY

XAVIER BECERRA



Thursday, March 02, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TODAY:

Overview of Today's Schedule.....page 5

Judy Center Maternal Health Eventpage 7

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking Points*
 - *Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants*
 - *Biden-Harris Administration Maternal Health Actions*

House Democratic Caucus 2023 Issues

Conference.....page 17

- *New memo*
 - *Memo consists of:*
 - Cover memo*
 - *Talking Points*
 - *IRA Provisions*
 - *CMS' December MA program announcements*
 - *Biographies*
 - *Issues Conference Agenda*

HIPAA Briefing.....page 45

- *Memo previewed on February 17; Updated slide deck*
 - *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide Deck*

CMS Meeting with Health Plans CEOspage 50

- *Memo previewed March 01; Updated participants*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*

Call with Chair Wyden (D-OR) regarding youth mental health and Medicare Advantage (MA).....page 61

- *Memo previewed on March 01; No updates*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants*
 - *Sen. Wyden MA Marketing Letter to CMS*
 - *Sen. Wyden MA 2024 NPRM Comment Letter*

CDC Check inpage 71

- *Memo previewed on February 27; Updated Slide Deck*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide Deck*

Briefing for President Biden on East Palestine, Ohio Response.....page 74

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Ohio Train Derailment Joint Interagency Brief (FYSA)*

Unaccompanied Children (UC) CORE Meetingpage 82

- *Standing memo; No updates*

Call with Dr. Jha on Long COVID Researchpage 84

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Call with Dr. Jha on Long COVID Research*

LOOK AHEAD:

3/3 - Calls with 118th Congress Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Memberspage 91

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking Points*
 - *Biographies for Congressional Participants*
 - *FY 2023 Omnibus Topline Health Wins*

3/3 - ARPA-H Updates.....page 107

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide Deck*

3/7 - SAMHSA Check-In.....page 110

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide Deck*



Secretary Xavier Becerra – Daily Schedule

Thursday, March 2nd, 2023

8:00am – 9:00am ET	DEPART RESIDENCE FOR BALTIMORE
9:00am – 10:15am ET	SITE #1 - JUDY CENTER MATERNAL HEALTH EVENT
10:15am – 10:45am ET	DEPART SITE FOR DEM ISSUES CONFERENCE
10:45am – 11:15am ET	SCHEDULING CHECK-IN WITH CYNTHIA
11:15am – 11:45am ET	PREP FOR ISSUES CONFERENCE
11:45am – 12:30pm ET	DEMOCRATIC ISSUES CONFERENCE
12:30pm – 2:00pm ET	DEPART BALTIMORE FOR HHS
12:40pm – 1:00pm ET	HIPAA NPRM BRIEFING
1:00pm – 1:30pm ET	CDC DIVISION CHECK-IN
2:00pm – 2:15pm ET	CMS HEALTH PLANS CEO CONVENING REMARKS
2:15pm – 2:30pm ET	CALL W/ SEN. WYDEN

2:15pm – 2:30pm ET	HOLD: DEPART HHS FOR WH
2:30pm – 3:00pm ET	HOLD: COVID-19 TEST AND HOLD
3:00pm – 4:00pm ET	HOLD: IN-PERSON POTUS OHIO BRIEFING
4:00pm – 4:30pm ET	DEPART WH FOR RESIDENCE
4:00pm – 4:30pm ET	WEEKLY UC CORE MEETING
4:45pm – 5:45pm ET	HOLD: WEEKLY IMMIGRATION PC
6:00pm – 6:30pm ET	RECOVER TOUCHBASE



DATE: February 28, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA)
Adeola Adesina, Senior Advisor to the Director, IEA

SUBJECT: Judy Center Maternal Health Event

Details:

What: Judy Center Maternal Health Event

Date: March 2, 2023

Time: 9 – 10am ET

Location: Moravia (**Mora-ay-veea**) Park Elementary, 6201 Frankford Ave, Baltimore, MD 21206

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Adeola Adesina (IEA)

Press: Yes

Topic:

Maternal health.

Objective:

To uplift investments by HHS on maternal health and Women's History Month.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will participate in tour, roundtable discussion, and press availability.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank Mayor Scott and Drs. Santelises (**Santa-lee-sis**) and Dzirasa (**Ja-ra -sa**) for their work to uplift maternal health.
- Moravia (**Mora-ay-veea**) Park Elementary and Judy Center for hosting YOU at their facility.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Lizeth Zardeneta, Advance Associate

Other HHS Divisions:

- Caryn Marks, Director of Strategic Partnerships, IEA
- Adrian Eng-Gastelum, Senior Advisor, ASPA

WH/USG Participants:

- Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD-05)

External Participants:

- Brandon Scott, Mayor, Baltimore
- Dr. Letitia Dzirasa (**Ja-ra -sa**), Health Commissioner Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)
- Rebecca Dineen (**Da-neen**), MS, Assistant Commissioner, Maternal and Child Health, Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)
- Cathy Costa, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Maternal and Child Health, Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)
- Kim Lyles (**Lie-uhls**), Senior Director of Population Health, HealthCare Access Maryland
- Dr. Sonja Santelises (**Santa-lee-sis**), CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Crystal Francis, Director of Early Learning Programs, Baltimore City Public Schools
- Stacey Stephens, Director, Upton and Druid Heights, B'more for Healthy Babies Communities
- Pam Brown, Director, Patterson Park N&E, B'more for Healthy Babies Communities
- Maxine Reed-Vance, Deputy Director, Baltimore Healthy Start
- Ana Rodney, Executive Director, MomCares

Agenda/Run of Show:

9:00am	YOU arrive Moravia Park Elementary
9:00 – 9:03am	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>YOU will be greeted by Mayor Scott, Dr. Santelises, & Dr. Dzirasa</i>
9:03 – 9:18am	YOU tour Judy Center <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Led by Crystal Francis and Nicole Wood</i>- <i>Mayor/CEO/Health Commissioner to join YOU for tour</i>
9:18 – 9:47am	YOU participate in roundtable discussion with partners <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>YOU deliver opening remarks (2 mins)</i>

- *Mayor Scott delivers remarks (2 mins)*
- *Overview of B'more for Healthy Babies and the Judy Center Initiative*
- *Intro of Partners*
- *Description of role and greatest need in maternal health*

9:47 – 9:50am

YOU take group photo

9:50 – 10am

YOU participate in press availability

10am

YOU depart

Background:

B'more for Healthy Babies (BHB) Judy Center–Care Coordination Partnership

B'more for Healthy Babies (BHB), led by the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) with key implementation partners Family League of Baltimore and HealthCare Access Maryland (HCAM), is Baltimore City's strategy to prevent infant mortality and improve maternal and child health outcomes. When BHB was launched in 2009, infant mortality had been increasing for a decade. Since our launch, infant mortality in Baltimore City has declined by 24% with a 34% decrease in the Black-white disparity. BHB relies on its 150 partners—city agencies, health care systems, community-based organizations, academic institutions, and more—taking a collective impact approach to preventing infant mortality, reducing disparities, and laying the foundation for improving health citywide and across the life course.

The bedrock of BHB's success is our centralized intake system for pregnant and postpartum people and infants with Medicaid, which is operated by HCAM and serves as the **single point of entry to critical services for supporting healthy pregnancies and babies**. With referrals from health care providers and community-based organizations, our team of care coordinators outreaches each mother, assesses her needs, and links her to health care, evidence-based home visiting services, prenatal education and support groups, doula care, WIC, early intervention, behavioral health care, domestic violence services, and more. To create this system, BHB braided City General Funds and Title V public health dollars with Medicaid dollars. Our data shows that **pregnant people who receive care coordination through the centralized intake system are 80% more likely to have a baby who reaches his or her first birthday**.

However, about 20% of mothers who receive a referral to the centralized intake system are unable to be located through traditional outreach, and they are at significantly higher risk of having a stillbirth or infant death. To locate these mothers using creative outreach strategies, since Fall 2021, BHB has embedded full-time Community Health Advocates (CHAs) in six of the City's 14 Judy Centers, which are prenatal-to-5 centers located inside Title I schools charged with outreaching families in the community to boost school readiness. The Judy Centers serve as the CHAs' home base, and together the CHAs and Judy Center staff hold events to engage families in the community, provide resources like cribs and car seats, and identify pregnant and postpartum people and infants in the neighborhood to engage them in the centralized intake system, Judy Center services, and developmental and social-emotional screening. The six Judy Centers were strategically selected in neighborhoods with a high rate of "unable to locate"

pregnant people. The CHAs have been very effective in engaging mothers who were unable to be located through traditional outreach, with a **90% success rate in locating the mothers and a 47% success rate in linking them to evidence-based home visiting programs for long-term support**. We have begun to see the incredible impact of this collaborative work, with pregnant people who were care coordinated through the CHAs in the Judy Centers experiencing **lower preterm birth** compared with all mothers with Medicaid (11.2% versus 14.9%).

Funding for the five of the CHAs is provided by the Family League of Baltimore through a grant from the Governor's Office of Children. Funding for the sixth CHA is provided by local philanthropic foundations. BHB is able to leverage these funds to secure matching funds from Medicaid to strengthen the care coordination system for all pregnant and postpartum people and infants with Medicaid in Baltimore City.

Biden-Harris Administration Work on Maternal Health

The Biden-Harris Administration has championed policies to improve maternal health and equity since the President and Vice President first took office. In April 2021, President Biden issued the first-ever Presidential Proclamation marking Black Maternal Health Week. In December 2021, Vice President Harris hosted the first-ever White House Maternal Health Day of Action, where she announced important commitments to address the maternal health crisis.

In June 2022, the White House released the *Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis*. In August 2022, HRSA announced investments of over \$20 million to improve maternal and infant health and implement the *Blueprint*. Funding aims to help reduce disparities in maternal and birth outcomes, expand and diversify the workforce caring for pregnant and postpartum individuals, increase access to obstetrics care in rural communities, and support states in tackling inequities in maternal and infant health.

[CMS unveiled its Maternity Care Action Plan](#) in July 2022 to support the implementation of the Biden-Harris Administration's Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis. CMS' implementation of the action plan will support the Biden-Harris Administration's broad vision and call to action to improve maternal health.

Medicaid Postpartum Coverage

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) created an option for states to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage for 12 months through a state plan amendment (SPA). This option was made permanent as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. On January 11, CMS approved postpartum expansions in Alabama and North Dakota, which makes 28 states and the District of Columbia that have taken up the option.

Maternal Health in the Omnibus bill

President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 (the Omnibus) on December 29, 2022. The bill contained important improvements to maternal health including:

- Continuous Medicaid eligibility for children which guarantees that every child in Medicaid and CHIP (40 million children nationwide) will have 12 months of continuous, stable coverage when they enroll.

- Extension of Medicaid postpartum coverage which permanently extends a policy from the American Rescue Plan allowing states to provide 12 months of postpartum coverage to pregnant individuals in Medicaid and CHIP.
- Reauthorization and new funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.
- Additional funding for the Maternal Mental Health Hotline, Safe Motherhood Initiative, Healthy Start programs, State Maternal Health Innovation (MHI) grants and maternal health and newborn screenings.
- Establishment of a new FDA Office on Infant Food and Nutrition Safety and creation of a new Maternal Mental Health Task Force.

Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants



DATE: February 28, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff
Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary
Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Jesse Cross-Call, Deputy Director of External Affairs

SUBJECT: CMS Meeting with Health Plans CEOs

Details

What: Opening Remarks at CMS Meeting with Health Plans CEOs

Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM – 2:10 PM ET (Full meeting will run from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

Location: Room 505A

Hubert H. Humphrey Building

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC: Jesse Cross-Call, IEA

Press: No

Topics:

Administrator Brooks-LaSure and the CMS leadership team are hosting CEOs and other leaders of health plans for a roundtable discussion of their respective priorities for 2023, including ensuring people maintain health coverage during the Medicaid unwinding, strengthening the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces, implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, and the proposed Medicare Advantage payment update.

Secretary's Role:

This meeting was organized by CMS leadership. YOU will join at the beginning as an unannounced guest and provide five minutes of remarks in three buckets:

- (1) Affordable Care Act: Thank the plans for their role in enrolling a record number of people in ACA coverage.

- (2) Medicaid unwinding: Emphasize YOUR commitment to preventing large losses of health coverage during the Medicaid unwinding and ask the plans for their continued partnership in the work. Emphasize your commitment to protecting Medicaid, and the vital role it plays in 90 million Americans' lives.
- (3) Medicare Advantage: Make clear that YOU support CMS' proposed Medicare Advantage payment update, which some of the plans oppose.

YOU have met individually and in groups with many of the attendees of this meeting around issues such as the Medicaid unwinding, access to contraception, mental health parity, Medicare Advantage, and the ACA marketplaces.

Of note, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), Humana, and United Healthcare have been vocally opposed to CMS' Medicare Advantage payment update and fund the Better Medicare Alliance, which has been the face of industry opposition. Kaiser Permanente and United Healthcare have requested meetings with YOU around the payment update and those meetings will likely happen in the coming weeks.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary
- Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary

Other HHS OpDivs:

- Jesse Cross-Call, Deputy Director of External Affairs, IEA
- Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, CMS
- Jon Blum, Principal Deputy Administrator & Chief Operating Officer, CMS
- Dr. Meena Seshamani, Director, Center for Medicare
- Dr. Lee Fleisher, Chief Medical Officer and Director, Center for Clinical Standards & Quality
- Dara Corrigan, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Program Integrity
- Liz Fowler, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)
- Dan Tsai, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS)
- Ellen Montz, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO)
- Hannah Katch, Senior Advisor to the CMS Administrator

External:

- Gregory Adams, CEO, Kaiser Permanente
- Catherine Anderson, Senior Vice President for Policy and Strategic Engagement, UnitedHealthcare
- Shannon Attanasio, Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy, Medicaid Health Plans of America
- Jennifer Babcock, Director of Policy, Association for Community Affiliated Plans
- Tony Barrueta, Senior Vice President, Kaiser Permanente
- Catherine Patricia Connolly, President and CEO, Alliance of Community Health Plans
- Stephen Cozzo, Vice President, Government Relations & External Affairs, AmeriHealth Caritas
- Kristin Damato, Senior Vice President, Global Public Policy & Government Affairs, Cigna
- Chris DeRosa, President, US Government, Cigna
- Matt Eyles, President and CEO, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
- Elizabeth Hall, Vice President for Policy & Issues Management, Elevance Health
- Kris Haltmeyer, Vice President for Policy Analysis, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
- Mike Hoak, Vice President of Public Policy, Humana
- Krista Hoglund, CEO, Security Health Plan
- David Lynn Holmberg, President and CEO, Highmark
- Carolyn Ingram, Executive Vice President and CMO, Molina
- Daniel Raleigh Jones, Senior Vice President, Federal Affairs, Alliance of Community Health Plans
- John Kaelin, Senior Vice President for Government Relations, Centene
- Kim Keck, President and CEO, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
- Craig Kennedy, President and CEO, Medicaid Health Plans of America
- Peter Marino, CEO, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
- Scott Richard Markovich, Executive Vice President, CareSource
- Mike Mayers, Senior Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs, Molina
- Kelly Munson, Senior Vice President and President of Aetna Medicaid, CVS/Aetna
- Meg Murray, CEO, Association for Community Affiliated Plans
- Felicia Norwood, Executive Vice President, Government Business Division, Elevance Health
- Daniel Onorato, Executive Vice President and Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Highmark
- George Renaudin, President of Medicare and Medicaid, Humana
- Marcus Robinson, President, Marketplace, UnitedHealthcare
- Praveen Thadani, President, Priority Health
- Jeanette Thornton, Executive Vice President, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
- Richard Topping, Chief Legal Officer, CareSource
- Barbara Ellen Washington, Vice President of Public Policy, CVS Health
- Brad Wolters, Director of Federal Government Relations, Security Health Plan
- Philip Yeiter, Director of Government Affairs, Priority Health

Agenda/Run of Show:

Administrator Brooks-LaSure will start the meeting when YOU arrive. YOU should take a seat at the head of the table with her.

2:00 PM – 2:05 PM	YOU enter the room and sit with Administrator Brooks-LaSure, who will open the meeting and introduce YOU
2:06 PM – 2:10 PM	YOU deliver remarks and turn it back to Administrator Brooks-LaSure
2:10 PM	YOU thank everyone for attending, turn it back to Administrator Brooks-LaSure, and depart

Background

2024 Medicare Advantage Proposals and Policies

On February 1, 2023, CMS released its annual proposed Medicare Advantage payment update, which included an increase in payments to insurance companies that offer Medicare Advantage for 2024. The proposals in the 2024 Advance Notice include routine technical updates that fulfill CMS' statutory requirement to ensure accurate payments.

Despite industry-funded reporting indicating otherwise, the Biden-Harris Administration is not proposing cuts to Medicare Advantage. In fact, the Administration is proposing to increase Medicare Advantage payments this year by 1 percent, on top of an 8.5 percent increase in Medicare Advantage payments last year. The Administration also announced efforts to strengthen Medicare and hold industry accountable. This year, it will start recovering improper payments made to insurance companies in Medicare Advantage through audits.

Other Administration proposed policies to strengthen Medicare Advantage will hold health insurance companies to higher standards for America's seniors by:

- Cracking down on abusive and confusing marketing schemes;
- Addressing problematic prior authorization practices that prevent timely access to care; and
- Making it easier for seniors to access vital behavioral health care.

The Advance Notice is open for public comment until March 6, 2023, and CMS will publish the final payment policies no later than April 3, 2023. In response to industry-funded ads targeting the Advance Notice, claiming cuts to Medicare, HHS released a comprehensive fact sheet in response, and you made a public statement denouncing this disinformation campaign.

Note: On February 17, 2023, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) released the following statement: "We respectfully disagree with the Secretary's recent statements about the impact of the Administration's proposed 2024 Advance Rate Notice for Medicare Advantage (MA). It will have real-world consequences in 2024 for the more than 30 million seniors and people with disabilities who choose MA—they will face increased costs and reduced benefits.

“MA delivers lower costs, more choices, and better coverage and care than original Medicare, and it should be protected for the millions of Americans who depend on MA for their health and financial well-being.

“The Administration has stressed that protecting Medicare is a key priority. We agree, and so do the 30 million seniors who count on MA. That’s why we look forward to having meaningful conversations with the Administration about the impact of the Advance Rate Notice on seniors and people with disabilities to ensure they continue to receive the high-quality, affordable coverage and care they expect through their Medicare Advantage plans.”

Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Requirement

Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP is at an all-time high, with more than 91 million people enrolled, as of October 2022. A big reason for this increase is the continuous enrollment requirement in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). Essentially, states are not allowed to disenroll people from Medicaid, allowing millions of people to stay covered without any interruption during the pandemic.

It should be noted that Medicaid is very popular – with half of children covered by Medicaid, and the vast majority of home- and community-based long term care services paid by Medicaid – recent polling from Protect Our Care found Medicaid is enormously popular with the American people, across party lines. Protect Our Care’s polling also found 71 percent of voters are opposed to cuts to Medicaid and the most compelling arguments against cuts are centered on the role the program plays for low wage workers, people with disabilities, and families that need nursing home or in-home care.

When states resume normal eligibility operations, more than 15 million people could leave the Medicaid program. Some will leave because they are no longer eligible for Medicaid (but can transition to other coverage they’re eligible for, like in the Marketplace or Medicare). Others will lose Medicaid even though they’re still eligible due to “administrative churning” because, for example, they don’t update their contact information with their state, or the state fails to properly notify them of their responsibilities. Children and young adults will be impacted disproportionately, with 5.3 million children and 4.7 million adults ages 18-34 predicted to lose Medicaid/CHIP coverage. Nearly one-third of those predicted to lose coverage are Latino (4.6 million), 15 percent (2.2 million) are Black, and 6 percent (nearly 900,000) are Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islanders.

To prepare for the “unwinding” of the Medicaid continuous coverage requirement, HHS and CMS are executing a “whole-of-government” approach to develop a national outreach campaign so states, advocates, and Medicaid enrollees know what to expect when the continuous enrollment requirement ends. This includes identifying target states and working with key messengers inside and outside government; initiating national outreach campaigns to raise awareness of the need to renew coverage and reduce administrative churn; and generating state-specific data on enrollment growth over the past three years. The information and data collected during this work is informing HHS and CMS’ technical assistance strategy with key states.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

On December 29, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2023. The CAA delinks the Medicaid continuous enrollment requirements and receipt of temporary FMAP increase, under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), from the end of the COVID-19 PHE.

In particular, the CAA:

- Sunsets the FFCRA's continuous coverage requirement and allows states to begin terminations of Medicaid eligibility on April 1, 2023.
- Provides enhanced FMAP beginning on April 1, 2023, that would phase down each quarter through December 2023 (5 percent, 2.5 percent, 1.5 percent respectively) to states that meet certain criteria.
- To get the enhanced FMAP, states must:
 - Maintain enrollment of individuals through March 31, 2023.
 - Maintain eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures in place as of Jan 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023.
 - Maintain premium levels in effect on January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023.
 - No cost sharing for COVID-related services and treatments through December 31, 2023.

The CAA imposes other new requirements on states that will last from April 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. States must:

- Conduct compliant renewals or take up streamlining waiver strategies or CMS-authorized alternatives.
- Update enrollee contact info using reliable sources of information.
- Make a good-faith attempt to contact beneficiary before terminating based on returned mail using more than one modality.

All states must submit monthly data – that CMS must make publicly available – between April 2023 and June 2024:

- Number of renewals initiated and the disposition of the cases (renewals, *ex parte* renewals, terminations).
- Number of individuals disenrolled for procedural reasons (e.g. non-response to renewal form or returned beneficiary mail).
- Number of individuals enrolled in a separate CHIP.
- Transfers, QHP determinations, and plan selections for the Marketplace or Basic Health Program, in both SBM and FFM states (CMS can report on the states' behalf).
- Call center volume, wait times, and abandonment rate for each call center.

Finally, the CAA gives CMS new enforcement and compliance authority to ensure states comply with both renewal and reporting requirements:

- Requires an FMAP reduction for failure to comply with reporting requirements from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (0.25 percent per quarter, not to exceed 1 percent)
- Potential corrective action and civil monetary penalties for non-compliance with renewal requirements and reporting.

Health Care Coverage

On January 25, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that a record-breaking more than 16.3 million people selected an Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace health plan nationwide during the 2023 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) that ran from November 1, 2022-January 15, 2023 for most Marketplaces. Under this Administration, the number of people who have signed up for an affordable health care plan through HealthCare.gov has increased by nearly 50 percent. Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, millions of working families saved an average of \$800 on their health insurance premiums last year.

Attachments:

1. Talking points

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

for

HHS SECRETARY

XAVIER BECERRA



Tuesday, March 14, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TODAY:

[Overview of Today's Schedule](#).....page 4

[America's Health Insurance Plans \(AHIP\) Medicare, Medicaid, Duals & Commercial Markets Forum](#)page 6

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Talking Points for Fireside Chat*
 - *Biography for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants*
 - *HHS' Work to Implement the Inflation Reduction Act*

[Division Check-In with OASH](#)page 28

- *Memo previewed on*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide deck*

[President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Meeting](#).....page 31

- *Memo previewed on March 13; Updated with talking points*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking Points*
 - *Full Commission Meeting Agenda*
 - *Commissioner and Speaker Biographies*
 - *Commission Subcommittee Meeting Summaries and Draft Recommendations*
 - *Commission Meeting Slide Deck*

[Weekly Counselors Check In](#).....page 81

- *Standing memo; No updates*

OCR Division Check In.....page 83

- *Memo previewed on March 10; No updates*

LOOK AHEAD:

3/13 - Preparation for ARPA-H's Birthday Party.....page 86

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *List of expected attendees*

3-15 – Weekly FDA Check In.....page 97

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide Deck*
 - *Whitepaper*



Secretary Xavier Becerra – Daily Schedule

Tuesday, March 14th, 2023

8:00am – 8:20am ET	DEPART RESIDENCE TO PERSONAL
8:20am – 8:40am ET	HOLD: PERSONAL COFFEE
8:40am – 8:50am ET	DEPART PERSONAL FOR AHIP
8:50am – 9:30am ET	REMARKS AT AHIP HEALTH POLICY AND MARKETS FORUM
9:30am – 10:00am ET	DESK TIME / TRAVEL TO RESIDENCE
10:00am – 10:30am ET	OASH DIVISION CHECK IN
10:30am – 11:45am ET	DESK TIME / LUNCH
11:45am – 12:00pm ET	TRAVEL TO WHITE HOUSE/EEOB
12:00pm – 12:45pm ET	WHIAANHPI Q1 COMMISSION MEETING
12:45pm – 1:15pm ET	DEPART WH FOR RESIDENCE
1:00pm – 1:30pm ET	WEEKLY COUNSELORS CHECK-IN

1:30pm – 2:00pm ET	DESK TIME
2:00pm – 2:30pm ET	DAILY CHECK IN WITH DEPSEC ANDREA PALM
2:30pm – 3:00pm ET	PREP FOR WH PRESS CALL
3:00pm – 3:30pm ET	OCR DIVISON CHECK-IN
3:30pm – 4:00pm ET	SCHEDULING CHECK-IN WITH CYNTHIA
4:00pm – 4:30pm ET	DESK TIME
4:30pm – 5:30pm ET	WH PRESS CALL



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 10, 2023\
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary
Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary
FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Jesse Cross-Call, Deputy Director External Affairs
SUBJECT: America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) Medicare, Medicaid, Duals & Commercial Markets Forum

Details

What: Remarks and Fireside Chat at AHIP Medicare, Medicaid, Duals & Commercial Markets Forum

Date: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Time: 9:00 – 9:30 AM ET

Location: International Ballroom West-Center, Concourse Level
Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20009

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC: Jesse Cross-Call, IEA

Press: Yes

Topics:

YOUR priorities as they relate to CMS and private health insurance, including:

- The Affordable Care Act and work to expand health coverage;
- Mental health and behavioral health;
- Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act; and
- Advancing health equity.

Note: Staff recommends against referencing Medicare Advantage in your remarks, which is yet to be finalized. If approached and pressed on this topic, staff suggest the following TPs:

- I am happy to hear your perspective on our Medicare Advantage proposal, and I welcome constructive input.
- I am obligated to set the record straight when faced with sweeping and harmful mischaracterizations of this Administration’s proposals.
- This Administration is not cutting Medicare—any such claims are categorically false.

Secretary’s Role:

YOU will give the opening keynote address of AHIP’s Medicare, Medicaid, Duals & Commercial Markets Forum. YOU will give 8-10 minutes of remarks then engage in a 15-minute fireside chat with AHIP’s President and CEO Matt Eyles.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank Matt Eyles (**Eye-uhs**) for the kind introduction.
- Thank AHIP for hosting the event and for working with the Administration to expand health coverage and on other priorities.
- Acknowledge other HHS and CMS principals who will also speak at the forum, including CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure, who will speak later in the morning.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU

Other HHS Divisions:

- Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
 - *The Administrator will speak at 10:30 AM on “CMS Priorities for 2023 and Beyond”*
- Dr. Meena Seshamani, Director, Center for Medicare (*Speaking Thursday morning*)
- Dan Tsai, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS), CMS (*Speaking Wednesday afternoon*)
- Ellen Montz, Deputy Administrator and Director, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), CMS (*Speaking Wednesday afternoon*)
- Dara Corrigan, Deputy Administrator and Director, CMS Center for Program Integrity (*Speaking Wednesday morning*)
- Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use (*Speaking Wednesday morning*)
- Dr. Dora Hughes, Chief Medical Officer, CMS Innovation Center (*Speaking Wednesday afternoon*)

- Dr. Robert Califf, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) *(Speaking Thursday morning)*
- Tim Engelhardt, Director, CMS Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office *(Speaking Thursday morning)*
- Anne Marie Costello, Deputy Director, CMCS *(Speaking Thursday afternoon)*

Other External:

- Matt Eyles (**Eye-uhs**), President and CEO, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
- Audience: Approximately 800 health care professionals primarily representing health plans.

Agenda/Run of Show:

The stage will be set with a podium and fireside chat style seating to the side. The audience will be seated at round tables. YOU will be given a wireless lavalier microphone.

8:50 AM YOU arrive at the Washington Hilton and go to the Green Room to get mic'd

9:00 AM – 9:03 AM Matt Eyles introduces YOU

9:04 AM – 9:12 AM YOU walk on stage and give remarks from the podium

9:12 AM – 9:13 AM Remarks conclude; YOU sit with Matt Eyles for the fireside chat

9:14 AM – 9:28 AM Matt Eyles moderates the fireside chat with pre-scripted questions

9:29 AM – 9:30 AM YOU give closing remarks and depart

Background:

America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) is a political advocacy and trade association of health insurance companies that offer coverage through the employer-provided, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid managed care, and individual markets.

Matt Eyles and AHIP are in frequent communication with HHS and CMS principals and their staff around issues such as ACA marketplaces, CMS' Medicare Advantage proposed payment update, infant formula shortages, maternal health, and mental health parity. They have met with YOU on the following occasions:

- The meeting with health care plans CMS convened on March 2 where YOU gave opening remarks.
- The meeting with insurers that YOU and Secretary Walsh hosted at HHS on access to contraception coverage on June 27, 2022.
- The meeting YOU and Secretary Walsh hosted at the Department of Labor surrounding mental health parity on May 3, 2022.
- YOU spoke at the AHIP Board of Directors Meeting in September 2021.

- The Roundtable YOU convened on the Competition Executive Order in August 2021.

The Medicare, Medicaid, Duals & Commercial Markets Forum is a three-day conference focused on emerging issues and regulatory updates around Medicare, Medicaid, duals, and the commercial market. Attendees are primarily affiliated with health plans, although some researchers and health care advocates also participate.

HHS Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget

On March 9, the Biden-Harris Administration released the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Highlights of the budget as they relate to HHS include:

- **Extend Medicare Solvency by at Least 25 Years.** The FY 2024 legislative proposed law package extends Medicare Trust Fund solvency by at least 25 years, without cutting benefits. We achieve this by directing all revenues from the net investment income tax, including tax code reforms that ensure high-income earners pay their fair share into the Medicare Hospital Insurance (HI) Trust Fund.
- **Lower Drug Costs.** The budget helps make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors by limiting Medicare cost-sharing on high value generic drugs to \$2 and extending the Medicare Drug Negotiation Program to include more drugs. The budget also modifies the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program in territories and authorizes HHS to negotiate Medicaid supplemental rebates on behalf of states. The budget also limits cost-sharing for insulin at \$35 a month beyond the Medicare program.
- **Expand Access to Health Care.** With enrollment in health coverage at an all-time high, the budget invests \$183 billion over ten years to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare by making the enhanced premium tax credits previously extended under the Inflation Reduction Act permanent. The budget provides Medicaid-like coverage to individuals in states that have not adopted Medicaid expansion under the ACA while incentivizing states with existing expansions to maintain coverage.
- **988.** SAMHSA will dedicate \$836 million to the 9-8-8 and Behavioral Health Services program. This investment will support services for LGBTQI+ youth and for Spanish speakers, invest significantly in local crisis centers, and develop a national media campaign. SAMHSA will also dedicate \$100 million for mobile crisis response.
- **Improve the Well-being of Children, Seniors and People with Disabilities.** The budget includes a mandatory proposal to fund childcare for low- and middle-income families and universal preschool for all four-year-old children, at an estimated cost of \$600 billion over 10 years. The budget also affords \$150 billion over 10 years in improving and strengthening Medicaid home and community-based services to ensure more people who are aging and those with disabilities can receive care in their home or community.
- **Expand the Health Workforce.** The health workforce plays a vital role in responding to public health threats, addressing health disparities, and improving the health and resiliency of communities. The budget provides \$2.7 billion for HRSA workforce

programs, including \$947 million in mandatory resources, to expand workforce capacity across the country.

The Affordable Care Act and Health Care Coverage

On January 25, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that a record-breaking more than 16.3 million people selected an Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace health plan nationwide during the 2023 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) that ran from November 1, 2022-January 15, 2023 for most Marketplaces. Under this Administration, the number of people who have signed up for an affordable health care plan through HealthCare.gov has increased by nearly 50 percent. Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, millions of working families saved an average of \$800 on their health insurance premiums last year.

Medicaid Expansion

On March 2, legislative leaders in North Carolina announced an agreement to expand Medicaid as part of the Affordable Care Act. North Carolina will become the 40th state (plus Washington, DC) to expand Medicaid and the fourth during the Biden-Harris Administration. Missouri and Oklahoma implemented expansion in 2021 and South Dakota will implement on July 1, 2023. The American Rescue Plan provides states that newly expand Medicaid a two-year five-percentage-point increase in their federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) as an incentive to expand.

Medicaid Postpartum Coverage

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) created an option for states to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage for 12 months through a state plan amendment (SPA). This option was made permanent as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. On January 11, CMS approved postpartum expansions in Alabama and North Dakota, which makes 28 states and the District of Columbia that have taken up the option. The federal government estimates that if all states enacted a postpartum extension it would result in about 720,000 additional people remaining eligible through 12 months postpartum, with the number of continuously eligible increasing by 65 percentage points in non-expansion states and 38 percentage points in expansion states.

Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Requirement

Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP is at an all-time high, with more than 91 million people enrolled, as of October 2022. A big reason for this increase is the continuous enrollment requirement in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). Essentially, states are not allowed to disenroll people from Medicaid, allowing millions of people to stay covered without any interruption during the pandemic.

When states resume normal eligibility operations, more than 15 million people could leave the Medicaid program. Some will leave because they are no longer eligible for Medicaid (but can transition to other coverage they're eligible for, like in the Marketplace or Medicare). Others will lose Medicaid even though they're still eligible due to "administrative churning" because, for example, they don't update their contact information with their state, or the state fails to properly notify them of their responsibilities. Children and young adults will be impacted

disproportionately, with 5.3 million children and 4.7 million adults ages 18-34 predicted to lose Medicaid/CHIP coverage. Nearly one-third of those predicted to lose coverage are Latino (4.6 million), 15 percent (2.2 million) are Black, and 6 percent (nearly 900,000) are Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islanders.

To prepare for the “unwinding” of the Medicaid continuous coverage requirement, HHS and CMS are executing a “whole-of-government” approach to develop a national outreach campaign so states, advocates, and Medicaid enrollees know what to expect when the continuous enrollment requirement ends. This includes identifying target states and working with key messengers inside and outside government; initiating national outreach campaigns to raise awareness of the need to renew coverage and reduce administrative churn; and generating state-specific data on enrollment growth over the past three years. The information and data collected during this work is informing HHS and CMS’ technical assistance strategy with key states.

The Biden-Harris Administration’s Focus on Mental and Behavioral Health

In February 2022, HHS released a new roadmap of policy items to better integrate mental health into health care. The Roadmap demonstrates HHS’ commitment to delivering on the President’s Strategy to Address our National Mental Health Crisis. Following President Biden’s 2022 State of the Union, YOU kicked off HHS’ National Tour to Strengthen Mental Health to hear from Americans about the behavioral health challenges they’re facing and to engage with local officials and leaders to strengthen the mental health and crisis care system in our communities. YOU visited Colorado, New Hampshire, California, and Pennsylvania as part of this tour.

Implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) was signed into law by President Biden on June 25, 2022. This legislation is a major step forward for children and youth mental health. While there are many strong behavioral health provisions in this bill, the provisions HHS will implement that are of critical importance to this group are:

- Adds **\$40 million** to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network to improve treatment and services for youth who have experienced traumatic events.
- Requires the Secretary of HHS to provide technical assistance and issue guidance to states on improving access to telehealth under Medicaid and CHIP including best practices to support services delivered via telehealth in schools.
- Requires the Secretary of HHS to do regular reviews of state implementation of the requirements for providing early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPSDT) services under Medicaid, identify gaps and deficiencies, provide technical assistance to states to address gaps and deficiencies, and issue guidance to states on Medicaid coverage requirements for such services.
- Requires the Secretary, through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to simplify billing for school-based health services.
- Supports SAMHSA’s Project Aware through a **\$240 million investment** over four years to increase mental health awareness in schools, and trains school personnel to detect and respond to mental health issues.
- Provides **\$150 million** dollars in one-time funding to support implementation of 988, including support for children and youth.

988 Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline

The 988 Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline went live on July 16, 2022. When comparing December 2022 to December 2021, routed volume to the National 988 Lifeline increased by approximately 43 percent (371,655 routed contacts vs. 260,095 routed contacts). The average speed to answer across all contacts decreased from 172 seconds to 44 seconds. In December 2022 vs. December 2021, calls answered increased by 48 percent, chats answered increased by 263 percent, and texts answered increased by 1,445 percent.

The number of 988 centers answering calls in Spanish grew from three to seven last year. SAMHSA plans to add Spanish language chat and text options later this year and are aiming to expand those services to a 24/7 operation for the LGBTQ line, as well. The Spanish language line saw an increase of 3,800 calls year over the year from November 2021 to November 2022.

HHS Equity Action Plan

In April 2022, HHS released its Equity Action Plan to advance equity in the delivery of health and human services. The plan – which is a response to Executive Order 13985 that President Biden signed at the beginning of his term – details some of the ways HHS is building on equity work already underway and is part of the Administration's push to ensure that government works better for all. HHS' plan specifically focuses on a main tenet of the executive order, that advancing equity must be a central component of the decision-making framework that all agency functions are routed through (e.g., grants, acquisitions, capacity building).

The Plan specifically focuses on expanding language access for issues surrounding coverage. In fact, for the first time, last year, HHS provided the “Medicare & You” handbook in other languages and increased language access efforts on healthcare.gov. For the purposes of the Equity Action Plan, HHS will focus on addressing barriers that individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) face in obtaining information, services and/or benefits from HHS federally conducted programs (e.g., the 1-800-MEDICARE number where the services are provided directly by CMS) and federally assisted programs (e.g., Medicaid, where CMS funding allows a beneficiary to receive health care services from a private provider). HHS will address access to in-language content through webpages, listserv announcements, and public outreach material; telephonic interpreter services; program and benefit information in other languages; and federal funding for recipients of HHS funds to provide language access services.

Additional HHS Actions Focused on Health Equity

- *Latino Health Tour*
 - YOU kicked off the Latino Health Tour in Sacramento, CA in October of 2022. The tour aimed to bring health services and care to communities who would otherwise be unable to gain access to such care. Through the tour, HHS has partnered with community partners and health systems like UC Davis to increase language access within healthcare and ease access to services.
- *SDOH Working Group*

- The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Working Group published the HHS SDOH Action Plan in April, which will includes more than 90 action steps from across HHS.
- *Established the Office of Climate Change and Health Equity (OCCHE)*
 - OCCHE addresses the impact of climate change on the health of the American people and serves as a department-wide hub for climate change and health policy, programming, and analysis, in pursuit of environmental justice and equitable health outcomes.
- *Developed the Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index*
 - Enhances existing resources to support the identification of racial and ethnic communities at the greatest risk for disproportionate impact and adverse outcomes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *Increased engagement with individuals directly affected by HHS policy and programs*
 - HHS established the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, which included 12 non-federal members representing a diversity of expertise and lived experience.

Proposed 2024 Payment Updates for Medicare Advantage and Part D

- On February 1, 2023, CMS released its annual proposed Medicare Advantage payment update, which included an increase in payments to insurance companies that offer Medicare Advantage for 2024. The proposals in the 2024 Advance Notice include routine technical updates that fulfill CMS' statutory requirement to ensure accurate payments. In last year's payment notice and in the current proposal, the Biden-Harris Administration increased payments to insurance companies offering Medicare Advantage by nearly 10 percent, which far outpaces the payment updates other health care providers have received through the traditional, fee-for-service Medicare program.
- Despite industry-funded reporting indicating otherwise, the Biden-Harris Administration is not proposing cuts to Medicare Advantage. The public comment period for the Advance Notice closed on March 6, 2023. CMS will publish the final payment policies no later than April 3, 2023.
- AHIP responded to YOUR comments on the MA Advance Notice, disagreeing about the proposed funding levels <https://www.ahip.org/news/press-releases/ahip-response-to-secretary-becerras-statement-on-medicare-advantage>

Attachments:

1. Talking points
2. Talking Points for Fireside Chat
3. Biography for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants
4. HHS' Work to Implement the Inflation Reduction Act



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 9, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Steven Lopez, Counselor to the Secretary
Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Krystal Ka'ai, Executive Director, White House Initiative and President's
Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific
Islanders (WHIAANHPI)

SUBJECT: President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native
Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Meeting

Details

What: President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific
Islanders (PACAANHPI) Meeting

Date: March 14, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET (Full meeting will run 9:30 AM - 5:30PM ET)

Location: Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) Room 350

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Krystal Ka'ai, WHIAANHPI

Press: Yes.

- This meeting will be livestreamed on the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI) YouTube Channel, and press will be able to join in listen only-mode. Press will not be permitted to ask live questions.

Topic:

During this fifth meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, the Commissioners will discuss recommendations drafted by the Commission's six subcommittees and vote on final recommendations they would like to submit to the President on ways to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities pursuant to Executive Order 14031, *Advancing Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders*.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will participate in an in-person meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders for approximately one hour.

In your role as Co-Chair of the Commission, **YOU** are slated to provide approximately five minutes of remarks that:

- Applaud the Commissioners for their tireless work over the past three months since their last Commission virtual meeting on December 5 - 6, 2022.
- Discuss the continued strength and resilience of AA and NHPI communities – especially following the back-to-back incidents of gun violence in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, CA in January 2023 during the Lunar New Year – and the important role this Commission plays in addressing continued hate crimes and inequities impacting AA and NHPI communities.
- Highlight the vast diversity of the AA and NHPI community and the significant role the Commissioners play in ensuring that traditionally underserved communities have a voice in government.

Acknowledgements:

- Ambassador Katherine Tai (**Tie**), United States Trade Representative and Co-Chair of the White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Krystal Ka'ai (**Ka-eye**), Executive Director, White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders
- Erika Moritsugu (**Moritz-sue-goo**), Deputy Assistant to the President and AA and NHPI Senior Liaison

List of Participants:

Other HHS Divisions:

- Marvin Figueroa, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
- Krystal Ka'ai (**Ka-eye**), Executive Director, White House Initiative and President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs (WHIAANHPI)
- Rebecca Lee, Deputy Director, WHIAANHPI Caroline Goon, Lead Designated Federal Officer (DFO), WHIAANHPI
- Zeyen Wu (**Zay-yen Woo**), Designated Federal Officer, WHIAANHPI
- Sarah Edwards, Designated Federal Officer, WHIAANHPI

WH/USG Participants:

- Katherine Tai (**Tie**), U.S. Trade Representative; WHIAANHPI and PACAANHPI Co-Chair
- Erika Moritsugu (**Moritz-sue-goo**), Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior AA and NHPI Liaison

Other External:*Federal Contractors*

- Courtney Chappell, Federal Contractor, WHIAANHPI
- Grace Choi, Federal Contractor, WHIAANHPI

Commissioners:

- Sonal Shah, Chief Commissioner, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Amy Agbayani, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Teresita Batayola, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Ajay Bhutoria, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Luisa Blue, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Kimberly Chang, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Emily Chen, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Kerry Doi, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Grace Huang, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Victoria Huynh, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Mia Ives-Rublee, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Kamal Kalsi, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Michelle Kauhane, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Daniel Dae Kim, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Kevin Kim, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Sarah Min, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Simon Pang, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Ai-jen Poo, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Naheed Qureshi, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Raynald Samoa, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Smita N. Shah, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- Robert A. Underwood, Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs
- KaYing Yang, President's Advisory Commission on AA and NHPIs

Attached is a complete list of Commissioner and non-Commissioner speakers and attendees who will be joining the meeting.

Agenda/Run of Show:

- 12:10 PM YOU arrive at EEOB Room 350 where the Commission meeting will already be in session.
- 12:14 PM YOU are introduced by WHIAANHPI Executive Director Krystal Ka'ai
- 12:15 PM YOU deliver remarks as the Co-Chair of the Commission
- 12:25 PM Following your remarks, the Commission meeting will adjourn for a one-hour lunch break. During this time, YOU are free to mingle with the Commissioners and take any photos with them.
- 1:00 PM YOU have a hard stop at 1:00 PM, but may depart sooner.

Background:

The President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders was authorized through Executive Order (EO) 14031, *Advancing Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders*, which President Biden signed on May 28, 2021. The Commission is co-chaired by YOU and Ambassador Katherine Tai and is composed of 25 members who have a history of advancing equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities across diverse sectors. Its purpose is to advance equity for AA and NHPI communities by advising the President on a wide-range of issues, including addressing anti-Asian hate crimes, improving data disaggregation and language access, promoting health equity, and more.

Since the Commission was formed and launched, many actions have been taken to implement its work:

On February 3-4, 2022, YOU and Ambassador Tai hosted the virtual swearing-in ceremony and inaugural meeting of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

On May 12, 2022, YOU and Ambassador Tai hosted an in-person meeting of the Commission at the White House. Following that convening, the Commission forwarded their final recommendations to YOU and Ambassador Tai for consideration and submission to the President. The recommendations from the May meeting were transmitted to the President on August 24, 2022.

On September 28, 2022, YOU hosted an in-person meeting of the Commission at the White House. Following that convening, the Commission forwarded their final recommendations to YOU and Ambassador Tai for consideration.

On December 5-6, 2022, YOU and Ambassador Katherine Tai hosted a virtual, two-day meeting of the Commission. Following that convening, the Commission forwarded their final recommendations to YOU and Ambassador Tai for consideration. The September and December 2022 recommendations are currently going through the clearance process for transmittal to the President.

The Commission's term is currently set to expire on September 30, 2023, and the Commission plans to hold two additional in-person, quarterly meetings in Summer 2023 and Fall 2023 before its term ends.

Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Full Commission Meeting Agenda
3. Commissioner and Speaker Biographies
4. Commission Subcommittee Meeting Summaries and Draft Recommendations
5. Commission Meeting Slide Deck

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

for

HHS SECRETARY

XAVIER BECERRA



Prepared by Jorge Zurita-Coronado

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TODAY:

Overview of Today's Schedule.....page 5

Unaccompanied Children (UC) CORE Meetingpage 7

- *Standing memo; No updates*

RECOVER Touchbase with Dr. Jhapage 9

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *NIH Director Meeting Materials*

Biweekly COVID-19 Briefing.....page 18

- *Standing memo; No updates*

Weekly Check-In with FDA.....page 20

- *Memo previewed on March 14; No updates*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide Deck*
 - *Whitepaper*

Meeting with Andrew Witty, CEO of UnitedHealth Group.....page 26

- *Memo previewed on March 13; No updates*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants*

OGC Division Check-Inpage 32

- *Memo previewed on March 13; No updates*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Slide Deck*

Preparation for ARPA-H's Birthday Partypage 35

- *Memo previewed on March 14; Updated with talking points*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *List of expected attendees*

Weekly Cabinet Call.....page 46

- *New Memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*

LOOK AHEAD:

3-/16 - United Community Center Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Senior Center Event.....page 47

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants*
 - *Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act*

3/16 - Milwaukee Bucks COVID-19 Event.....page 61

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies*

3/17 - Mental Health Event with Rep. Jonathan Jackson (D-IL-01).....page 72

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies*
 - *White House Fact Sheet on Executive Order to reduce gun violence*



Secretary Xavier Becerra – Daily Schedule

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023

9:00am – 9:15am ET	PREP FOR PRE-TAPED GRAY TV HIT
9:15am – 9:30am ET	PRE-TAPED GRAY TV HIT
9:30am – 10:30am ET	DESK TIME
10:30am – 11:00am ET	WEEKLY UC CORE MEETING
11:00am – 11:30am ET	WEEKLY FDA CHECK-IN
11:30am – 12:00pm ET	BIWEEKLY RECOVER TOUCHBASE
12:00pm – 12:30pm ET	WEEKLY COVID BRIEFING
12:30pm – 1:00pm ET	LUNCH
1:00pm – 2:00pm ET	WEEKLY IMMIGRATION PC
2:00pm – 2:30pm ET	DESK TIME
2:30pm – 3:00pm ET	UNITEDHEALTH GROUP MEETING

3:00pm – 3:30pm ET	OGC DIVISION CHECK IN
3:30pm – 4:00pm ET	XB ONLY: REVIEW FY24 BUDGET BINDER
4:00pm – 4:30pm ET	DEPART RESIDENCE FOR HHS
4:30pm – 5:00pm ET	ARPA-H ANNIVERSARY
3:00pm – 5:30pm ET	ARPA-H ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION
5:30pm – 6:00pm ET	WEEKLY CABINET CALL
6:00pm – 6:30pm ET	DEPART HHS FOR RESIDENCE



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: May 5, 2022
TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra
THROUGH: Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff
FROM: Dawn O'Connell, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
SUBJECT: Biweekly COVID-19 Briefing

Details

What: Biweekly COVID-19 Briefing

Date: Mach 15, 2023

Time: 12:00-12:30pm ET

Location: Zoom

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

(b)(6)

Meeting ID: (b)(6)

Passcode: (b)(6)

Internal Event: Yes

Topic:

Discussion of relevant COVID-19 response issues.

Objective:

We plan to use this briefing to share updates on COVID-19 response issues and concerns.

Secretary's Role:

Participant

List of Participants:**IOS:**

- Andrea Palm, Deputy Secretary
- Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff
- Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
- Sarah Despres, Counselor to the Secretary
- Steve Cha, Counselor to the Secretary
- Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary
- Meg Sullivan, Counselor to the Secretary
- Angela Botticella, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary
- Kimberly Miller-Tolbert, Policy Advisor
- Jonathan Moore, Policy Advisor

Other HHS Divisions:

- Dawn O'Connell, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
- Robert Gordon, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources
- Kathryn Alvarez, Chief of Staff, ASPR
- Kamara Jones, Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
- John Kraus, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
- Daniel Barry, Deputy General Counsel, OGC
- Will Harris, Senior Advisor, CMS
- Perrie Briskin, Policy Advisor, CMS

Agenda/Run of Show:

- I. Updates on COVID-19 Response Issues
- II. Questions/Open Discussion



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 10, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary
Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Jesse Cross-Call, Deputy Director of External Affairs

SUBJECT: Meeting with Andrew Witty, CEO of UnitedHealth Group

Details

What: Meeting with Andrew Witty, CEO of UnitedHealth Group

Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Time: 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM ET

Location: Zoom (Link to join in your calendar)

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Jesse Cross-Call (IEA)

Press: No

Topics:

- CMS' proposed Medicare Advantage payment update.
- The end of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the Medicaid unwinding.
- United's work to advance health equity.

Mr. Witty requested this meeting to discuss CMS' proposed Medicare Advantage payment update. In United's comments to the proposed rule that it submitted on March 6, they argued that it would result in increased out-of-pocket costs for seniors, reductions in benefits, and would disproportionately harm people of color. United urged CMS to withdraw the proposed rule and restart the process in collaboration with industry.

United is a funder of the Better Medicare Alliance, an industry front group that advocates for Medicare Advantage plans and has been coordinating opposition to the proposed rule.

Secretary's Role:

Listen to Mr. Witty and engage, as appropriate. Staff suggest you remain in listen-mode on the topic of Medicare Advantage. If pressed, staff suggest the following TPs:

- I am happy to hear your perspective on our Medicare Advantage proposal, and I welcome constructive input.
- I am obligated to set the record straight when faced with sweeping and harmful mischaracterizations of this Administration's proposals.
- This Administration is not cutting Medicare—any such claims are categorically false.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary
- Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary
- Melanie Egorin, Assistant Secretary for Legislation

Other HHS Divisions:

- Jesse Cross-Call, IEA

External:

- Andrew Witty (**Whit-ee**), CEO, UnitedHealth Group
- John Prible (**Prih-bull**), Vice President for External Affairs, UnitedHealth Group
- Alexis Ahlstrom (**All-strom**), Head of Health Policy, UnitedHealth Group

Background

UnitedHealth Group is based in Minnetonka, Minnesota and is made up of two business platforms: Optum and UnitedHealthcare. Optum provides care management, health financial services, research and consulting services, and pharmacy care services. UnitedHealthcare provides a range of health insurance products through Medicaid, the Marketplace, and Medicare Advantage. UnitedHealthcare offers Medicaid products in 19 states and Marketplace products in 23 states. UnitedHealthcare Global provides health insurance products in more than 150 countries, principally in South America.

YOU had an introductory call with Mr. Witty over Zoom on November 16, 2022 where YOU discussed the Medicaid unwinding, COVID-19 response, and United's presence in the Medicare Advantage market.

HHS and CMS leadership has met with United on multiple occasions. Mr. Witty:

- Met with CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure and Center for Medicare Director Seshamani on February 15 to discuss the proposed Medicare Advantage payment update.

- Met with Administrator Brooks-LaSure on November 1, 2022 to discuss redeterminations in Medicaid at the end of the public health emergency and the Medicare prescription drug reforms that were included in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Proposed 2024 Payment Updates for Medicare Advantage and Part D

On February 1, 2023, CMS released its annual proposed Medicare Advantage payment update, which included an increase in payments to insurance companies that offer Medicare Advantage for 2024. The proposals in the 2024 Advance Notice include routine technical updates that fulfill CMS' statutory requirement to ensure accurate payments. In last year's payment notice and in the current proposal, the Biden-Harris Administration has increased payment to insurance companies offering Medicare Advantage by nearly 10 percent, which far outpaces the payment updates other health care providers have received through the traditional, fee-for-service Medicare program.

Despite industry-funded reporting indicating otherwise, the Biden-Harris Administration is not proposing cuts to Medicare Advantage. The public comment period for the Advance Notice closed on March 6, 2023. CMS will publish the final payment policies no later than April 3, 2023.

Medicaid Continuous Enrollment Requirement

Enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP is at an all-time high, with nearly 91 million people, as of September 2022. A big reason for this increase is that during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) states are essentially not allowed to disenroll people from Medicaid. This continuous enrollment requirement has allowed millions of people to stay covered without any interruption during the pandemic.

When states resume normal eligibility operations, more than 15 million people could leave the Medicaid program. Some will leave because they are no longer eligible for Medicaid (but can transition to other coverage they're eligible for, like in the Marketplace or Medicare). Others will lose Medicaid even though they're still eligible due to "administrative churning" because, for example, they don't update their contact information with their state, or the state fails to properly notify them of their responsibilities. Children and young adults will be impacted disproportionately, with 5.3 million children and 4.7 million adults ages 18-34 predicted to lose Medicaid/CHIP coverage. Nearly one-third of those predicted to lose coverage are Latino (4.6 million), 15 percent (2.2 million) are Black, and 6 percent (nearly 900,000) are Asian/ Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islanders.

Companies like United that offer managed care plans are a key stakeholder in the unwinding work. CMS has encouraged them to work closely with states to help individuals enrolled in their plans complete the renewal process, minimize the number of people who lose coverage for procedural reasons, and facilitate transitions between Medicaid to the Marketplace or Medicare. Often, managed care plans in states have more updated contact information than the state itself for beneficiaries, and states, the federal government, and MCOs have a shared interest in ensuring that people remain insured without interruption at the end of the PHE.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

On December 29, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2023. The CAA delinks the Medicaid continuous enrollment requirements and receipt of temporary FMAP increase, under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), from the end of the COVID-19 PHE.

In particular, the CAA:

- Sunsets the FFCRA's continuous coverage requirement and allows states to begin terminations of Medicaid eligibility on April 1, 2023.
- Provides enhanced FMAP beginning on April 1, 2023, that would phase down each quarter through December 2023 (5 percent, 2.5 percent, 1.5 percent respectively) to states that meet certain criteria.
- To get the enhanced FMAP, states must:
 - Maintain enrollment of individuals through March 31, 2023.
 - Maintain eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures in place as of Jan 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023.
 - Maintain premium levels in effect on January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2023.
 - No cost sharing for COVID-related services and treatments through December 31, 2023.

The CAA imposes other new requirements on states that will last from April 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. States must:

- Conduct compliant renewals or take up streamlining waiver strategies or CMS-authorized alternatives.
- Update enrollee contact info using reliable sources of information.
- Make a good-faith attempt to contact beneficiary before terminating based on returned mail using more than one modality.

All states must submit monthly data – that CMS must make publicly available – between April 2023 and June 2024:

- Number of renewals initiated and the disposition of the cases (renewals, *ex parte* renewals, terminations).
- Number of individuals disenrolled for procedural reasons (e.g. non-response to renewal form or returned beneficiary mail).
- Number of individuals enrolled in a separate CHIP.
- Transfers, QHP determinations, and plan selections for the Marketplace or Basic Health Program, in both SBM and FFM states (CMS can report on the states' behalf).
- Call center volume, wait times, and abandonment rate for each call center.

Finally, the CAA gives CMS new enforcement and compliance authority to ensure states comply with both renewal and reporting requirements:

- Requires an FMAP reduction for failure to comply with reporting requirements from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (0.25 percent per quarter, not to exceed 1 percent)

- Potential corrective action and civil monetary penalties for non-compliance with renewal requirements and reporting.

Attachments:

1. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 13, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Jonathan Moore, Policy Advisor

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Tania Calle, Special Assistant, Intergovernmental and External Affairs

SUBJECT: United Community Center Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Senior Center Event

Details

What: United Community Center Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Senior Center Event
Date: March 16, 2023
Time: 2:15 –3:45 PM CDT
Location: United Community Center Senior Center, 730 West Washington St, Milwaukee, WI 53204
External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Tania Calle (IEA)

Press: Yes

Topic:

Inflation Reduction Act, focused on:

- o \$35 cap on each Medicare-covered insulin
- o Free preventive vaccines under Medicare Part D
- o Manufacturers must pay rebates if their price increases exceed inflation
- o Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices for the first time

Objective:

To highlight Inflation Reduction Act provisions.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will be meeting with seniors and providing brief remarks and press availability on the Inflation Reduction Act wins/provisions.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank United Community Center for hosting YOU at their center.
- Thank Congresswoman Moore (D-WI-04) for joining.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Cynthia Palafox, Director of Scheduling and Advance

Other HHS Divisions:

- ASPA – *To be confirmed*
- Jess Smith, Deputy Director, IEA
- Michael Cabonargi, Director, Region 5, IEA (*roundtable*)
- Zoe Verdiguél, Acting Executive Officer and Public Affairs Specialist, Region 5, IEA

WH/USG Participants:

- Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI-04)

Other External:

- Laura Gutiérrez, Chief Executive Officer, United Community Center (*greeter and moderator*)
- Ana Castaneda, Elderly Programs Manager, United Community Center (*greeter*)
- Jennifer Steiner, Marketing Director, United Community Center (*attending*)
- Senior #1 (*roundtable*) *To be confirmed* *
- Senior #2 (*roundtable*) *To be confirmed* *
- Senior #3 (*roundtable*) *To be confirmed* *
- Translator, (*roundtable*) *To be confirmed*
- Pharmacist, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers (*roundtable*) *To be confirmed*
- Daniel Culhane, Doctor, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers (*roundtable*)
- Leslie Spencer Herrera, Volunteer State President, AARP (*roundtable*)
- Martha Cranley, State Director, AARP (*attending*)
- Sam Wilson, Regional Vice President, AARP (*attending*)
- XX, State Director, Protect Our Care (*roundtable*) *To be confirmed*

*Note: The seniors participating in this conversation are English Second Language or monolingual Spanish speakers.

Agenda/Run of Show:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2:15 PM | YOU arrive at the United Community Center Senior Center |
| 2:15 – 2:17 PM | Welcome |
| | - You are greeted by Laura Gutiérrez and Ana Castaneda |

- 2:17 – 2:28 PM** YOU tour the United Community Center Senior Center
- 2:28 – 2:30 PM** YOU transition to roundtable with additional stakeholders
- 2:30 – 3:30 PM** YOU participate in a roundtable discussion
- *Laura Gutiérrez will introduce YOU and participants (2-3 minutes)*
 - *YOU give opening remarks (2-3 minutes)*
 - *Rep. Moore gives opening remarks (2 minutes)*
 - *Laura moderates conversation (42 minutes)*
- 3:30 – 3:45 PM** YOU participate in press availability
- 3:45 PM** Press avail ends, YOU Depart

Background:

United Community Center Senior Center

Established in 1970 as a youth recreation center, Centro de la Comunidad Unida/United Community Center (UCC) has developed many program components in response to important community needs. UCC provides programs to Hispanics and near south side residents of all ages in the areas of education, cultural arts, recreation, community development, and health and human services. Of the more than 18,000 people who benefited from their programs last year, more than 90 percent are racial or ethnic minorities and more than 40 percent live at or below the poverty level.

The UCC Senior Center serves many functions in the community. The center offers interactive programs for Latino seniors that provide education and recreation while fostering socialization and peer interaction. These programs promote the participants' maximum level of independence by encouraging them to enjoy new experiences at their own pace. Additionally, transportation between the seniors' homes and the Senior Center is provided. The services offered by the UCC Senior Center are available to all Milwaukee County residents, 60 years of age and older.

March 15th & 16th Inflation Reduction Act Roll-Outs

Medicare Inflation Rebate Program (March 15th)

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, drug companies that raise prices of certain drugs faster than the rate of inflation will be required to pay rebates to the Medicare Trust Fund. The implementation of this provision has begun in the following ways:

- On October 1, 2022: The first 12-month period for which drug companies will be required to pay rebates to Medicare for raising prices that outpace inflation on certain Part D drugs began.
- On January 1, 2023: The first quarterly period for which drug companies will be required to pay rebates for raising prices that outpace inflation on certain Part B drugs began.

The federal government intends to invoice drug manufacturers for 2023 and 2024 Part B inflation rebates no later than fall 2025. The rebates will be deposited into the Medicare Trust Fund.

In addition, beginning April 1, 2023, people with Medicare may see lower out-of-pocket costs for applicable Part B drugs and biologicals that have been found to be priced at a rate that outpaces inflation. On March 15th, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced that the prices for the quarter dating April 1 – June 30, 2023 of 27 Medicare Part B rebatable drugs and biologicals were determined to exceed the inflation-adjusted payment amount, representing roughly nine percent of all Medicare Part B drugs. As a result, people with Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage who use these drugs may, depending on other health coverage the individual may have, pay a lower coinsurance during this specific quarter. Beneficiaries may experience lowered coinsurance amounts for the quarter April 1 – June 30, 2023 that could be as much as \$2 to \$390 per dose on these drugs.

Relatedly, CMS posts payment information each quarter for separately payable Part B drugs, including the Part B rebatable drugs subject to the coinsurance adjustments, in the Medicare Part B Quarterly Sales Pricing (ASP) file, which is publicly available on CMS.gov. For the first time, the April 2023 ASP public file will also include the coinsurance adjustments for Part B rebatable drugs, as required by the Inflation Reduction Act. The Part B drugs impacted by a coinsurance adjustment may change quarterly. This file will become available on March 15th, 2023.

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) Report on Vaccine Savings for Medicare Enrollees (March 15)

As of January 1, 2023, the Inflation Reduction Act eliminated out-of-pocket costs for vaccines covered under Medicare Part D that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Currently, about 51 million Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in a Part D plan.

On March 15, 2023, ASPE issued a new report that estimates the savings that seniors and people with disabilities could have gained, had the new vaccine provisions from the IRA been in place in 2021. Specifically, the report found that 3.4 million people received vaccines under Part D and annual out-of-pocket costs were \$234 million in 2021. This translates to nearly \$70 in out-of-pocket spending per Medicare enrollee receiving a Part D vaccine that they would not have had to pay if the IRA had been in effect in 2021. The report also indicates that the new vaccine provisions will provide cost-sharing savings across a wide range of demographic groups, including 2.7 million White enrollees, 271,000 Black enrollees, 113,000 Asian enrollees, and 86,000 Latino enrollees. Improved affordability may also reduce existing racial and ethnic disparities in access to these vaccines

Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Initial Guidance

On March 15, 2023, CMS will issue initial guidance on how the Medicare drug negotiation program will work for the first year negotiated prices that will be in effect in 2026 and invite public comment on key elements of the program guidance. This is CMS' first major action in implementing the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

The initial program guidance describes how CMS intends to operationalize the Negotiation Program, including:

- o Selection and removal of selected drugs in the Negotiation Program.
- o Establish an initial offer for the Maximum Fair Price to manufacturers.
 - Based on clinical benefit and value to patients
- o Details on the negotiation process and timing.
- o Manufacturer agreement, compliance and oversight.
- o Special rule to delay selection of a biologic if there is a high likelihood a biosimilar (i.e., the generic equivalent of a biologic) will enter the market.

CMS is seeking public comment on key elements in the initial guidance, including:

- o Terms and conditions contained in the manufacturer agreement (i.e., once a drug is selected, this is the document manufacturers will sign to kick-start the negotiation), including the manufacturer's and Secretary's responsibilities.
- o Approach for considering (1) the manufacturer-reported data elements and (2) evidence about alternative treatments.
- o Process for the offer and counteroffer exchange between the Secretary and manufacturers.
- o Content of an explanation for the maximum fair price.
- o Method for applying the maximum fair price across different dosage forms and strengths of a selected drug.
- o Dispute resolution process for select issues.
- o Processes for compliance monitoring and imposition of civil monetary penalties for violations.

Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants
3. Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 13, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Adeola Adesina, Senior Advisor to the Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs

SUBJECT: Milwaukee Bucks COVID-19 Event

Details

What: Milwaukee Bucks COVID-19 Event

Date: March 16, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM CT

Location: Fiserv Forum, 1111 Vel R. Phillips Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53203

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Adeola Adesina, IEA

Press: Yes.

Topic:

Updated COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot.

The Department of Health and Human Services, the Milwaukee Bucks, and City of Milwaukee Health Department are partnering to host a Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic at Fiserv Forum. Together we'll work to distribute Covid-19 vaccines to individuals interested in a vaccine that are already in the arena. During the clinic, the Bucks will host YOU to visit the clinic and be recognized during our Noche Latina game.

Objective:

To underscore the need for seniors to get their updated vaccine and flu shot.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will visit vaccine clinic and Latino Business Owner marketplace and participate in radio interview.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank the Milwaukee Bucks for their work to get the community vaccinated and inviting YOU to the game.
- Thank the Milwaukee Health Department for administering the vaccines.
- Thank individuals in line for getting vaccinated.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Cynthia Palafox, Director of Scheduling and Advance

Other HHS Divisions:

- Jess Smith, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
- Mike Cabonargi, Director, Region 5
- Joe Palm, Director, Region 7
- Zoe Verdiguell, Public Affairs Specialist, Region 5
- Gaby Sibori, Press Secretary
- Jamie Colucci, PEC (staffing the booth)
- Alicia Garza, PEC (staffing the booth)

WH/USG Participants:

- TBD

Bucks Participants:

- Peter Feigin (**Fay-gin**), Milwaukee Bucks and Fiserv Forum President
- Adam Stockwell, Vice President, Security
- Mike Tate, Government Relations
- Bob Cook, Government Relations
- Barry Baum (**Bow-m**), Chief Communications Officer
- Raven Jemison, Executive Vice President, Business Operations
- Quinn Otero (**O-tear-o**), Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility
- Arvind Gopalratnam (**Go-pal-rot-nam**), Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility
- Kate Reed, Coordinator, PR Coordinator

Milwaukee Health Department Participants:

- Tyler Weber, Interim Health Commissioner
- Betsy Vornholt (**VORN-holt**), Communications Coordinator
- Nick Tomaro (**Tomorrow**), Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Director

Agenda/Run of Show:

4:30pm	HHS education team arrives to set up table
5:15pm	Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) team arrive with vaccine clinic supplies
5:45pm	MHD team set up vaccine clinic
6:00pm	Doors open, guests able to begin arriving for clinic
6:00pm	Clinic operate for fans/guests receiving tickets for the clinic
6:30pm	YOU arrive
6:30 – 6:40pm	YOU participate in meet and greet with leadership of Bucks Team
6:45 – 7:05pm	YOU visit the vaccine clinic - <i>YOU deliver remarks (2-3 minutes)</i>
7:05 – 7:20pm	YOU are featured in game highlight - <i>timing and location to vary based on gameplay, this will be fluid and updated closer to 3/16</i>
7:20 – 7:40pm	YOU visit Latino Business Owner marketplace
7:40 – Halftime (8:00pm)	YOU participate in Halftime interview
End of halftime	Breakdown vaccine clinic

Background:

Milwaukee Bucks

Information on their health care work forthcoming

COVID-19 Response

- HHS mobilized over 90,000 vaccination locations, resulting in over 224 million fully vaccinated Americans. Recently, 90 percent of adults have been vaccinated, 79 percent of the total population has received at least one dose, and 52 percent of adults have received their first booster.
- Health centers have delivered over 21.6 million vaccine doses, with 69 percent going to racial or ethnic minority patients. Of those, over 9 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered through the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program, with 76 percent going to racial or ethnic minorities.

- In July, HHS collaborated with U.S. Department of Defense to purchase 66 million doses of Moderna’s variant-specific COVID-19 vaccine booster for fall and winter use. These vaccines will target BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.
- On September 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) authorized and recommended updated vaccines targeting the Omicron variant has been authorized and recommended for everyone age 12 and older who has been fully vaccinated. These updated vaccines are designed to better protect people from serious illness and from getting infected or spreading COVID-19.
- People with Medicare, Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, private insurance coverage, or no health coverage can get COVID-19 vaccines, including the updated vaccines, at no cost, for as long as the federal government continues purchasing and distributing these COVID-19 vaccines.
- In April 2022, President Biden issued a Presidential Memorandum directing HHS to coordinate a new interagency effort to accelerate and further our work to address the long-term effects of COVID-19 and deliver two reports within 120 days. On August 3, HHS released the *National Research Action Plan on Long COVID*, which details advances in current research and charts a course for future study to better understand prevention and treatment of Long COVID. The second report released, the *Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19*, which highlights resources for health care workers, and those affected by broader effects of COVID-19, including not only Long COVID but also effects on mental health and substance use, and loss of caregivers and loved ones.

Public Education Campaign

In September, the HHS COVID-19 Public Education Campaign (PEC) released a refreshed set of paid media assets encouraging Americans to get the updated vaccine. This effort will be spearheaded by a new ad called “At Risk” that is targeted at people over 50 years old.

- “At Risk” and “En Riesgo” were recently released by the HHS ‘We Can Do This’ COVID-19 Vaccine Public Education Campaign (PEC) this week as part of the Administration’s rollout of updated vaccines and fall COVID-19 response plan. These ads highlight the importance of getting updated vaccines, especially for older Americans – directing them to Vaccines.gov.
- These ads are the latest step in the HHS vaccine campaign. The HHS ‘We Can Do This’ COVID-19 Vaccine Public Education Campaign (PEC) is a department-wide effort aimed at boosting vaccination rates. The campaign uses partnerships, digital outreach, influencers, and paid media to reach Americans where they are, with a focus on outreach around new authorizations. The campaign has partnered with over 1,000 organizations, the majority of which work with minority or rural communities. These partnerships have reached over 26 million people, resulted in hundreds of events, and over 15,000 vaccinations.
- This Administration also launched the COVID-19 Community Corps — a network of nearly 20,000 community leaders and volunteers who serve as trusted voices. These actions helped close a 10-point disparity gap in our nation’s vaccination rate last year — between White and Black/Latino communities.
- Secretary Becerra has encouraged “everyone who is eligible to get this free updated COVID vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones, just as they would get an annual flu vaccine.”

Biden Administration End of the Year Update COVID-19 Vaccine

In December, the Biden Administration announced a six-week campaign through the end of the year urging Americans to get their updated COVID-19 vaccine. The six-week campaign focused on reaching seniors and the communities that were hardest hit by COVID-19 by making it even more convenient to get vaccinated and increasing awareness through paid media.

As part of the campaign, HHS announced additional funding for community health centers and community-based organizations to increase the pace of vaccinations. Specifically, ACL invested \$125 million in community vaccine clinics, in-home vaccinations, transportation to vaccination sites, education, and more. And HRSA invested \$350 million in outreach and education, community engagement, and partner events at health centers. These efforts have led to results; since December, health centers have administered 500,104 COVID-19 vaccine doses; 71 percent were boosters.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires nursing homes to educate their residents on the benefits of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccinations and to offer the vaccines to their residents. As part of the six-week vaccination effort, CMS issued guidance reminding health care providers of this requirement. In its guidance, CMS made clear that nursing homes with low vaccination rates will be referred to state survey agencies for close scrutiny, and that facilities that do not comply with the requirement to offer and educate on the benefit of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccinations will face enforcement actions, including the need to submit corrective action plans to achieve compliance. And CMS also provided data to states and health plans about the poorest performing nursing homes to help them encourage action and promote increased vaccination uptake.

Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

for

HHS SECRETARY

XAVIER BECERRA



Prepared by Jorge Zurita-Coronado

Thursday, March 16, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TODAY:

[Overview of Today's Schedule](#).....page 4

[Briefing on Albuterol Shortage](#)page 6

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*

[United Community Center Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\) Senior Center Event](#)page 8

- *Memo previewed on March 15; Updated with participants names, run of show & talking points*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking Points*
 - *Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants*
 - *Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act*

[Calls with 118th Congress Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members - Rep. Robert Aderholt \(R-AL-04\)](#)page 25

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies*

[Milwaukee Bucks COVID-19 Vaccine Event](#)page 30

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- *Memo consists of:*
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 - *Talking Points*
 - *Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants*

LOOK AHEAD:

3/17 - [Tablets Pharmacy Inflation Reduction Act Event \(Pharmacy Stop\)](#).....page 42

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies*



Secretary Xavier Becerra – Daily Schedule

Thursday, March 16th, 2023

9:45am – 10:00am ET DEPART RESIDENCE FOR DCA

10:15am – 10:30am ET ARRIVE DCA

11:00am ET – 12:05pm CT TRAVEL: DCA TO MKE

12:30pm – 1:00pm CT ALBUTEROL SHORTAGE BRIEFING

12:30pm – 1:00pm CT DEPART AIRPORT FOR LUNCH

1:00pm – 2:00pm CT LUNCH

2:00pm – 2:15pm CT DEPART LUNCH FOR SITE 1

2:15pm – 3:45pm CT SITE 1: IRA SENIOR CENTER EVENT

3:45pm – 4:00pm CT CALL W/ REP. ADERHOLT

3:45pm – 4:00pm CT DEPART SITE FOR HOTEL

4:00pm – 6:00pm CT HOTEL/DOWN TIME

6:00pm – 6:30pm CT	DEPART HOTEL FOR MILWAUKEE BUCKS GAME
6:30pm – 9:00pm CT	COVID-19 VACCINATION EVENT W/ MILWAUKEE BUCKS
9:00pm – 9:30pm CT	DEPART FOR RON
9:30pm – 10:00pm CT	RON



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 13, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary
Jonathan Moore, Policy Advisor

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Tania Calle, Special Assistant, Intergovernmental and External Affairs

SUBJECT: United Community Center Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Senior Center Event

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External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Tania Calle (IEA)

Press: Yes

Topic:

Inflation Reduction Act, focused on:

- o \$35 cap on each Medicare-covered insulin
- o Free preventive vaccines under Medicare Part D
- o Manufacturers must pay rebates if their price increases exceed inflation
- o Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices for the first time

There are also three new IRA announcements as of March 15th worth highlighting. They are:

- o The release of initial guidance on how the Medicare drug negotiation program will work for the first year negotiated prices that will be in effect in 2026
- o The publication of a new ASPE report that estimates the savings that seniors and people with disabilities could have gained, had the new vaccine provisions from the IRA been in place in 2021
- o The lowered coinsurance amounts for the quarter April 1 – June 30, 2023 for 27 Medicare Part B rebatable drugs and biologicals that were determined to exceed the

inflation-adjusted payment amount. These lowered coinsurance amounts will depend on the health coverage that the beneficiary holds and are specific to this quarter.

Objective:

To highlight Inflation Reduction Act provisions.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will be meeting with seniors and providing brief remarks and press availability on the Inflation Reduction Act wins/provisions.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank United Community Center for hosting YOU at their center.
- Thank Congresswoman Moore (D-WI-04) and David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive, for joining.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Cynthia Palafox, Director of Scheduling and Advance

Other HHS Divisions:

- Gabriela Sibori, Press Secretary, ASPA
- Jess Smith, Deputy Director, IEA
- Michael Cabonargi (**Cab-oh-nar-gee**), Director, Region 5, IEA (*roundtable*)
- Zoe Verdiguél (**Ver-Dee-Gel**), Acting Executive Officer and Public Affairs Specialist, Region 5, IEA

WH/USG Participants:

- Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI-04)

Other External:

- Laura Gutiérrez, Chief Executive Officer, United Community Center (*greeter and moderator*)
- Ana Castaneda, Elderly Programs Manager, United Community Center (*greeter*)
- Jennifer Steiner, Marketing Director, United Community Center (*attending*)
- (b)(6), Senior, (*greeter*)*
- (b)(6), Diabetic Senior, (*roundtable*)*
- (b)(6), Diabetic Senior, (*roundtable*)*
- (b)(6), Diabetic Senior, (*roundtable*)*
- (b)(6), Diabetic Senior, (*greeter*)*
- Nicholas Olson, Pharmacist, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers (*roundtable*)

- Daniel Culhane (**Cul-hain**), Doctor, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers (*roundtable*)
- Leslie Spencer Herrera, Volunteer State President, AARP (*roundtable*)
- Martha Cranley, State Director, AARP (*attending*)
- Sam Wilson, Regional Vice President, AARP (*attending*)
- David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive (*roundtable*)
- Joe Zepecki (**Zeh-peck-ee**), State Director, Protect Our Care (*roundtable*)
- Anna Mercer, Constituent Liaison, Office of Rep. Moore, (*attending*)
- Deon Canon, District Executive Assistant, Office of Rep. Moore (*attending*)
- Tiffany Henry, Office of Senator Tammy Baldwin (*attending*)

***Note:** The seniors participating in this conversation are bilingual and have learned English as a second language.

Agenda/Run of Show:

- | | |
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| 2:15 PM | YOU arrive at the United Community Center Senior Center |
| 2:15 – 2:17 PM | Welcome
- <i>You are greeted by Laura Gutiérrez, Ana Castaneda, Carmen Colon, and Teresa Alamo</i> |
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- <i>Rep. Moore gives opening remarks (2 minutes)</i>
- <i>David Crowley gives opening remarks (1 minute)</i>
- <i>Laura moderates conversation (~50 minutes)</i> |
| 3:30 – 3:45 PM | YOU participate in press availability |
| 3:45 PM | Press avail ends, YOU Depart |

Background:

United Community Center Senior Center

Established in 1970 as a youth recreation center, Centro de la Comunidad Unida/United Community Center (UCC) has developed many program components in response to important community needs. UCC provides programs to Hispanics and near south side residents of all ages in the areas of education, cultural arts, recreation, community development, and health and

human services. Of the more than 18,000 people who benefited from their programs last year, more than 90 percent are racial or ethnic minorities and more than 40 percent live at or below the poverty level.

The UCC Senior Center serves many functions in the community. The center offers interactive programs for Latino seniors that provide education and recreation while fostering socialization and peer interaction. These programs promote the participants' maximum level of independence by encouraging them to enjoy new experiences at their own pace. Additionally, transportation between the seniors' homes and the Senior Center is provided. The services offered by the UCC Senior Center are available to all Milwaukee County residents, 60 years of age and older.

March 15th Inflation Reduction Act Announcements

Inflation Rebate Program: Lowered Coinsurance Announcement (March 15)

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, drug companies that raise prices of certain drugs faster than the rate of inflation will be required to pay rebates to the Medicare Trust Fund. The federal government intends to invoice drug manufacturers for 2023 and 2024 Part B inflation rebates no later than fall 2025. The rebates will be deposited into the Medicare Trust Fund.

In addition, beginning April 1, 2023, people with Medicare may see lower out-of-pocket costs for applicable Part B drugs and biologicals that have been found to be priced at a rate that outpaces inflation. On March 15, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), announced that the prices for the quarter dating April 1 – June 30, 2023 of 27 Medicare Part B rebatable drugs and biologicals were determined to exceed the inflation-adjusted payment amount. As a result, people with Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage who use these drugs may, depending on other health coverage the individual may have, pay a lower coinsurance during this specific quarter. Beneficiaries may experience lowered coinsurance amounts for the quarter April 1 – June 30, 2023 that could be as much as \$2 to \$390 per dose on these drugs.

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) Report on Vaccine Savings for Medicare Enrollees (March 15)

As of January 1, 2023, the Inflation Reduction Act eliminated out-of-pocket costs for vaccines covered under Medicare Part D that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Currently, about 51 million Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in a Part D plan.

On March 15, 2023, ASPE issued a new report that estimates the savings that seniors and people with disabilities could have gained, had the new vaccine provisions from the IRA been in place in 2021. Specifically, the report found that 3.4 million people received vaccines under Part D and annual out-of-pocket costs were \$234 million in 2021. This translates to nearly \$70 in out-of-pocket spending per Medicare enrollee receiving a Part D vaccine that they would not have had

to pay if the IRA had been in effect in 2021. The report also indicates that the new vaccine provisions will provide cost-sharing savings across a wide range of demographic groups, including 2.7 million White enrollees, 271,000 Black enrollees, 113,000 Asian enrollees, and 86,000 Latino enrollees. Improved affordability may also reduce existing racial and ethnic disparities in access to these vaccines

Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Initial Guidance (March 15)

On March 15, 2023, CMS will issue initial guidance on how the Medicare drug negotiation program will work for the first year negotiated prices that will be in effect in 2026 and invite public comment on key elements of the program guidance. This is CMS' first major action in implementing the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program.

The initial program guidance describes how CMS intends to operationalize the Negotiation Program, including:

- o Selection and removal of selected drugs in the Negotiation Program.
- o Establish an initial offer for the Maximum Fair Price to manufacturers.
 - Based on clinical benefit and value to patients
- o Details on the negotiation process and timing.
- o Manufacturer agreement, compliance and oversight.
- o Special rule to delay selection of a biologic if there is a high likelihood a biosimilar (i.e., the generic equivalent of a biologic) will enter the market.

Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants
3. Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 13, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff
TBD, Counselor to the Secretary

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Adeola Adesina, Senior Advisor to the Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs

SUBJECT: Milwaukee Bucks COVID-19 Vaccine Event

Details

What: Milwaukee Bucks COVID-19 Vaccine Event

Date: March 16, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM CT

Location: Fiserv Forum, 1111 Vel R. Phillips Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53203

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Adeola Adesina, IEA

Press: Yes.

Topic:

Updated COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot.

The Milwaukee Bucks and the City of Milwaukee Health Department are partnering to host a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic at Fiserv Forum. They will work to distribute COVID-19 vaccines to individuals interested in a vaccine that are already in the arena. During the clinic, the Bucks will have YOU visit the clinic and be recognized during the Noche Latina game.

Objective:

To underscore the need for individuals to get their updated vaccine and flu shot.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will visit vaccine clinic and Latino Business Owner marketplace and participate in radio interview. YOU will be featured in the game highlights on the jumbotron.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank the Milwaukee Bucks for their work to get the community vaccinated and inviting YOU to the game.
- Thank the Milwaukee Health Department for administering the vaccines.
- Thank individuals in line for getting vaccinated.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Cynthia Palafox, Director of Scheduling and Advance

Other HHS Divisions:

- Jess Smith, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
- Mike Cabonargi, Director, Region 5
- Joe Palm, Director, Region 7
- Zoe Verdiguell, Public Affairs Specialist, Region 5
- Gaby Sibori, Press Secretary
- Jamie Colucci, PEC (staffing the booth)
- Alicia Garza, PEC (staffing the booth)

WH/USG Participants:

- TBD

Other External Participant(s):

- Kirsten Johnson, Secretary of Health, Wisconsin

Bucks Participants:

- Peter Feigin (**Fay-gin**), Milwaukee Bucks and Fiserv Forum President
- Adam Stockwell, Vice President, Security
- Mike Tate, Government Relations
- Bob Cook, Government Relations
- Barry Baum (**Bow-m**), Chief Communications Officer
- Raven Jemison, Executive Vice President, Business Operations
- Quinn Otero (**O-tear-o**), Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility
- Arvind Gopalratnam (**Go-pal-rot-nam**), Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility
- Kate Reed, Coordinator, PR Coordinator

Milwaukee Health Department Participants:

- Tyler Weber, Interim Health Commissioner
- Betsy Vornholt (**VORN-holt**), Communications Coordinator
- Nick Tomaro (**Tomorrow**), Emergency Preparedness Environmental Health Director

Agenda/Run of Show:

4:30pm	HHS education team arrives to set up table
5:30pm	Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) team arrive with vaccine clinic supplies
5:50pm	MHD team set up vaccine clinic
6:00pm	Doors open, guests able to begin arriving for clinic
6:00pm – Halftime	Clinic operate for fans/guests receiving tickets for the clinic
6:30pm	YOU arrive
6:30 – 6:40pm	YOU participate in meet and greet with leadership of Bucks Team
6:40 – 7:05pm	YOU visit the vaccine clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>YOU deliver remarks (2-3 minutes)</i>- <i>YOU participate in press conference</i>
7:05 – 7:20pm	YOU are featured in game highlight <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>timing and location to vary based on gameplay, this will be fluid and updated closer to 3/16</i>
7:20 – 7:30pm	YOU visit Latino Business Owner marketplace
7:40 – Halftime (8:00pm)	YOU participate in Halftime interview
End of halftime	Breakdown vaccine clinic
Q3 – end of the game	YOU watch game

Background:**Milwaukee Bucks Health Care Work**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fiserv Forum served as a distribution site for over 3.5 million non-surgical face masks as part of MaskUpMKE, a local initiative benefiting the medical and nonprofit community. The Bucks opened Fiserv Forum to house the growing supply of kits and to speed up the delivery of face coverings in the community. In addition, they have hosted several vaccine drives since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Response

- HHS mobilized over 90,000 vaccination locations, resulting in over 224 million fully vaccinated Americans. Recently, 90 percent of adults have been vaccinated, 79 percent of the total population has received at least one dose, and 52 percent of adults have received their first booster.
- Health centers have delivered over 21.6 million vaccine doses, with 69 percent going to racial or ethnic minority patients. Of those, over 9 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered through the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program, with 76 percent going to racial or ethnic minorities.
- In July, HHS collaborated with U.S. Department of Defense to purchase 66 million doses of Moderna's variant-specific COVID-19 vaccine booster for fall and winter use. These vaccines will target BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.
- On September 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) authorized and recommended updated vaccines targeting the Omicron variant has been authorized and recommended for everyone age 12 and older who has been fully vaccinated. These updated vaccines are designed to better protect people from serious illness and from getting infected or spreading COVID-19.
- People with Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage, private insurance coverage, or no health coverage can get COVID-19 vaccines, including the updated vaccines, at no cost, for as long as the federal government continues purchasing and distributing these COVID-19 vaccines.
- In April 2022, President Biden issued a Presidential Memorandum directing HHS to coordinate a new interagency effort to accelerate and further our work to address the long-term effects of COVID-19 and deliver two reports within 120 days. On August 3, HHS released the *National Research Action Plan on Long COVID*, which details advances in current research and charts a course for future study to better understand prevention and treatment of Long COVID. The second report released, the *Services and Supports for Longer-Term Impacts of COVID-19*, which highlights resources for health care workers, and those affected by broader effects of COVID-19, including not only Long COVID but also effects on mental health and substance use, and loss of caregivers and loved ones.

Public Education Campaign

In September, the HHS COVID-19 Public Education Campaign (PEC) released a refreshed set of paid media assets encouraging Americans to get the updated vaccine. This effort will be spearheaded by a new ad called "At Risk" that is targeted at people over 50 years old.

- "At Risk" and "En Riesgo" were recently released by the HHS 'We Can Do This' COVID-19 Vaccine Public Education Campaign (PEC) this week as part of the Administration's rollout of updated vaccines and fall COVID-19 response plan. These ads highlight the importance of getting updated vaccines, especially for older Americans – directing them to [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).
- These ads are the latest step in the HHS vaccine campaign. The HHS 'We Can Do This' COVID-19 Vaccine Public Education Campaign (PEC) is a department-wide effort aimed at boosting vaccination rates. The campaign uses partnerships, digital outreach, influencers, and paid media to reach Americans where they are, with a focus on outreach around new authorizations. The campaign has partnered with over 1,000 organizations, the majority of which work with minority or rural communities. These partnerships have

reached over 26 million people, resulted in hundreds of events, and over 15,000 vaccinations.

- This Administration also launched the COVID-19 Community Corps—a network of nearly 20,000 community leaders and volunteers who serve as trusted voices. These actions helped close a 10-point disparity gap in our nation’s vaccination rate last year—between White and Black/Latino communities.
- Secretary Becerra has encouraged “everyone who is eligible to get this free updated COVID vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones, just as they would get an annual flu vaccine.”

Biden Administration End of the Year Update COVID-19 Vaccine

In December, the Biden Administration announced a six-week campaign through the end of the year urging Americans to get their updated COVID-19 vaccine. The six-week campaign focused on reaching seniors and the communities that were hardest hit by COVID-19 by making it even more convenient to get vaccinated and increasing awareness through paid media.

As part of the campaign, HHS announced additional funding for community health centers and community-based organizations to increase the pace of vaccinations. Specifically, ACL invested \$125 million in community vaccine clinics, in-home vaccinations, transportation to vaccination sites, education, and more. And HRSA invested \$350 million in outreach and education, community engagement, and partner events at health centers. These efforts have led to results; since December, health centers have administered 500,104 COVID-19 vaccine doses; 71 percent were boosters.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires nursing homes to educate their residents on the benefits of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccinations and to offer the vaccines to their residents. As part of the six-week vaccination effort, CMS issued guidance reminding health care providers of this requirement. In its guidance, CMS made clear that nursing homes with low vaccination rates will be referred to state survey agencies for close scrutiny, and that facilities that do not comply with the requirement to offer and educate on the benefit of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccinations will face enforcement actions, including the need to submit corrective action plans to achieve compliance. And CMS also provided data to states and health plans about the poorest performing nursing homes to help them encourage action and promote increased vaccination uptake.

Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 14, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Adeola Adesina, Senior Advisor to the Director, Intergovernmental and External Affairs

SUBJECT: Tablets Pharmacy Inflation Reduction Act Event (Pharmacy Stop)

Details

What: Tablets Pharmacy Inflation Reduction Act Event

Date: March 17, 2023

Time: 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM CT

Location: Tablets Pharmacy, 9603 S Pulaski Rd, Evergreen Park, IL 60805

External Event: Yes.

Primary HHS POC(s): Adeola Adesina, IEA

Press: Yes.

Topic:

Inflation Reduction Act, focused on:

- \$35 cap on each Medicare-covered insulin
- Free preventive vaccines under Medicare Part D
- Manufacturers must pay rebates if their price increases exceed inflation
- Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices for the first time

Objective:

To speak with community leaders and highlight Inflation Reduction Act provisions.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will take part in a quick tour of Tablets Pharmacy, deliver remarks on IRA implementation, meet with local seniors, and participate in a press gaggle.

Acknowledgements:

- Thank Jalal and Diala Mataria for hosting this event at their pharmacy.
 - Acknowledge the role independent pharmacies like Tablets play in caring for people and boosting their communities to protect against COVID-19.
- Thank the National Council on Aging and the Alliance for Retired Americans for joining YOU at this event.
- Thank the seniors who have joined YOU for this event.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Lizeth Zardeneta, Advance Associate

Other HHS Divisions:

- Mike Cabonargi, Director, Region 5
- Zoe Verdiguell, Public Affairs Specialist, Region 5
- Gaby Sibori, Press Secretary

WH/USG Participants:

- Congressman Jonathan Jackson (D-IL-01)

Other External:

- Jalal (**Jay**) Mataria, Owner, Tablets Pharmacy
- Diala (**Dee-a-la**) Mataria, Owner, Tablets Pharmacy
- Kelly Burke, Mayor, Evergreen Park
- Dr. Cheryl Woodson, National Council on Aging
- Katie Jordan, Treasurer, Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
- Maryann Walczak (**Wahl-zack**), Senior

Agenda/Run of Show (tentative):

9:30am	YOU arrive at Tablets Pharmacy - <i>YOU are greeted by Jay and Diala Mataria</i>
9:30 – 9:35am	YOU tour pharmacy
9:35 – 9:36am	YOU and speakers transition to presser
9:36 – 9:39am	Mayor Burke gives remarks
9:39 – 9:42am	Dr. Mataria gives remarks
9:42 – 9:45am	Dr. Cheryl Woodson speaks about the work the National Council on Aging is doing to partner with senior centers to get older adults

	vaccinated
9:45 – 9:48am	Rep. Jonathan Jackson gives remarks
9:48 – 9:51am	Katie Jordan gives remarks
9:51 – 9:54am	Maryann Walczak tells story of how the IRA will benefit her
9:54 – 10:00am	YOU deliver remarks
10:00 – 10:05am	YOU take group photo
10:05 – 10:15am	YOU participate in press availability
10:15am	YOU depart

Background:

Tablets Pharmacy

Tablets Pharmacy is a family-owned pharmacy in the Chicagoland region. Tablets is committed to providing better products and services – at lower costs – to those organizations who serve the community with cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities and who live in assisted living facilities.

Pharmacists and owners Jalal and Diala Mataria are committed to helping their patients benefit from the most up-to-date methods while providing stand-out, personal customer service.

March 15th-Inflation Reduction Act Announcements

Inflation Rebate Program: Lowered Coinsurance Announcement (March 15

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act, drug companies that raise prices of certain drugs faster than the rate of inflation will be required to pay rebates to the Medicare Trust Fund. The federal government intends to invoice drug manufacturers for 2023 and 2024 Part B inflation rebates no later than fall 2025. The rebates will be deposited into the Medicare Trust Fund.

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Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants
3. Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

for

HHS SECRETARY

XAVIER BECERRA



Prepared by Jorge Zurita-Coronado

Monday, March 27, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TODAY:

Overview of Today's Schedule.....page 4

Pre-Budget Hearing Calls with House Committee Leadership.....page 6

- *Memo previewed on March 23; Updated with talking points*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies*

Cabinet Meeting – Invest in America Cabinet.....page 12

- *Memo previewed on March 24; Updated with attachments*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *White House Event Memo*
 - *Investing in America Tour Fact Sheet*

LGBTQI+ Coordinating Committee Meetingpage 21

- *Memo previewed on March 23; Updated with talking points*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*

Call with Congressman John Larson (D-CT-01) on Hartford Hospital PRF.....page 28

- *New memo*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biography*

LOOK AHEAD:

3/31 - Social Security and Medicare Trustees Spring Meeting.....page 34

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - Briefing Slide Deck ahead of the 2023 Spring Meeting

3/29 - San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Reception.....page 39

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - Talking Points
 - Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants
 - Additional HHS Actions on Mental Health
 - Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act



Secretary Xavier Becerra – Daily Schedule

Monday, March 27th, 2023

9:00am – 10:00am ET	FY24 BUDGET PREP
10:00am – 10:15am ET	DEPART HHS TO WH/MEMBER CALLS
10:15am – 10:45pm ET	COVID-19 TEST AND HOLD
10:30am – 10:45am ET	CALL W/ REP. DELAURO
11:00am – 12:00pm ET	INVEST IN AMERICA CABINET MEETING
12:00pm – 12:30pm ET	LUNCH/DEPART WH TO HHS
12:30pm – 1:00pm ET	FY24 TOUGH QUESTIONS/LATE BREAKING NEWS PREP
1:00pm – 1:30pm ET	XB ONLY: FY24 BUDGET READING/DESK TIME
1:30pm – 3:30pm ET	FY24 BUDGET MOOT POINTS
3:30pm – 4:00pm ET	LGBTQI+ COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00pm – 4:10pm ET	CALL W/ REP. SMITH

4:15pm – 4:30pm ET PREP FOR REP. LARSON CALL

4:30pm – 4:45pm ET CALL W/ REP. GUTHRIE

5:00pm – 5:15pm ET CALL W/ REP. NEAL

5:15pm – 5:30pm ET CALL W/ REP. LARSON



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 24, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Tania Calle, Special Assistant, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

SUBJECT: San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Reception

Details

What: Opening Remarks at the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Reception

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Time: 6:00 – 6:25 PM ET

Location: The Willard Hotel – Willard Room, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20043

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Tania Calle, IEA

Press: No

Topic:

The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Reception, sponsored by the FirstDay Foundation, is the concluding reception for their four-day fly-in event in D.C.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will provide opening remarks focused on mental health and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Acknowledgements:

- YOU can thank the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event, and the delegates in the audience for their commitment to and advocacy for their city and neighbors.
- YOU can thank the FirstDay Foundation for being a partner in this space and in their work.

- YOU can thank both the Chamber and the FirstDay Foundation for their work with military service members who serve our country, many of whom are based out of San Antonio.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Cynthia Palafox, Director of Scheduling and Advance

WH/USG Participants:

- Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20), *invited not confirmed*

Other External:

- Kevin Dinnin, President & CEO, FirstDay Foundation (*greeter*)
- Krista Piferrer, Executive Vice President for Public Affairs & Government Relations, FirstDay Foundation (*greeter*)
- John O'Hanlon, Partner, Ballard Partners (*greeter*)
- Katie Harvey, Chair, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce (*presenting award*)
- Dave Peterson, Chair, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce (*presenting award*)
- JR Trevino, Mayor, Castle Hills (*attending*)
- Kevin Wolff, Former Bexar County 3rd Pct. Commissioner (*attending*)
- Henry Cisneros, Former US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (*attending*)
- Rebecca Viagran, Former District 3 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Melissa Cabello Havrda, District 6 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Adriana Rocha Garcia, District 4 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Teri Castillo, District 5 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Grant Moody, Bexar County Pct. 3 Commissioner (*attending*)
- Additional Audience members: San Antonio civic, military, university, and business leaders.

Agenda/Run of Show:

Remarks will take place immediately next to the entrance of the Willard Room. There will be a hand-held microphone available. Attendees will be facing YOU from high top tables spread around the room.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6:05 PM | YOU arrive and are greeted by Kevin Dinnin Krista Piferrer, and John O'Hanlon outside the Willard Room |
| 6:05 – 6:11 PM | YOU mingle with the greeters |
| 6:11 – 6:13 PM | YOU enter the Willard Room with the greeters |

- 6:13 – 6:15 PM** Kevin Dinnin welcomes guests and introduces YOU
- 6:15 – 6:20 PM** YOU deliver remarks
- 6:20 – 6:24PM** Kevin Dinnin, Dave Peterson, and Katie Harvey present YOU with a pecan pie as a thank you
- 6:25 PM** YOU depart

Following YOUR remarks, attendees will continue to mingle at the reception before transitioning to the dinner portion of the evening.

Background:

Deputy Secretary Palm met with San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg in July 2022 on mental health supports, including 988, and social determinants of health actions out of the Department, including our work on hunger, nutrition, and health.

San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1894, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce convenes business leaders across San Antonio to address regional issues and challenges. The Commerce currently serves more than 1,650 members and represents 500,000 employees. In addition to mobilizing members around initiatives, the Commerce also connects members to business events, sponsorships, and networking opportunities.

Among these events, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce organizes an annual multiple day fly-in event for its members. The FirstDay Foundation is sponsoring this year's fly-in event. The fly-in will begin on March 27th when members arrive in Washington D.C. and attend a welcome reception. On the second and third day of the fly-in, March 28th and March 29th, members will lobby on Capitol Hill. The fly-in will conclude with a closing reception and dinner on the evening of March 29th and members will return to San Antonio on March 30th. YOU will be delivering remarks at the closing reception.

FirstDay Foundation

The FirstDay Foundation is the main sponsor for the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce annual reception and dinner, and the organization that invited YOU to participate.

The FirstDay Foundation is a philanthropic organization based in Texas that manages a \$600 million initial investment. These funds are directed towards regional, national, and international non-profits that advance the health and wellbeing of at-risk populations. More specifically, the FirstDay Foundation supports non-profit health and human services agencies that work with survivors of child sex trafficking; victims of domestic violence; youth in and aging out of foster care; expectant mothers and young children living in rural communities and Colonias; and individuals with disabilities. Of note, the FirstDay Foundation underwrote the services of resource navigators for each family affected by the Uvalde shooting. These navigators helped

families manage the range of resources and funding provided to affected families following the shooting.

HHS Actions Around Mental Health and Behavioral Health

HHS has engaged a full Department approach to delivering integrated and equitable behavioral health care. YOU started the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council soon after YOUR confirmation, with five priority areas (Overdose prevention, youth, Strengthening data and evaluation, crisis and suicide prevention, and behavioral health integration) for YOUR department's behavioral health work. Since that time, YOU issued the most progressive overdose prevention strategy to date, prioritizing harm reduction and long-term recovery, with demonstrated, quantitative results in the first two years. YOUR department rolled out 988, including a new nationwide chat and text function with a 98 percent response rate, more than doubled our capacity for the Spanish-language line, and is instituting a new LGBTQI+ line. Notably, the number of 988 centers answering calls in Spanish grew from three to seven last year and the Spanish language line saw an increase of 3,800 calls year over the year from November 2021 to November 2022. Lastly, in December, YOU and YOUR Department leadership co-authored a piece in *Health Affairs* which lays out the vision of the health system we are trying to create last year in response to the President's call to action. YOU have also led the single largest investment in behavioral health dollars in a generation, and broken down barriers to treatment in our coverage programs, including through increases in opioid treatment in Medicare and requiring new network adequacy standards in the Marketplace.

In addition, YOUR department has issued several recent actions to address the behavioral health crisis which include:

- This month, SAMHSA announced two funding opportunities for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) expansion, totaling \$123.6 million. The CCBHC Planning, Development, and Implementation (CCBHC-PDI) grant aims to assist clinics to establish and implement new CCBHC programs, and the CCBHC Improvement and Advancement (CCBHC-IA) grant seeks to enhance and support existing CCBHCs that currently meet the CCBHC Certification Criteria.
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Attachments:

1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants
3. Additional HHS Actions on Mental Health
4. Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act

DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

for

HHS SECRETARY

XAVIER BECERRA



Prepared by Jorge Zurita-Coronado

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TODAY:

Overview of Today's Schedule.....page 4

Weekly Counselor Check Inpage 6

Social Security and Medicare Trustees Spring Meetingpage 8

- *Memo previewed on March 27; No updates*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *Briefing Slide Deck ahead of the 2023 Spring Meeting*

CMS Hot Topics Check Inpage 13

- *Memo previewed on March 27; No updates*
- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*

San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Receptionpage 16

- *Memo previewed on March 27; No updates*
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LOOK AHEAD:

3/30 - Weekly Check-In with FDApage 34

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Cover memo*
 - *PMI Slide Deck*
 - *PMI Proposed Rule*
 - *Response to Questions from HHS Counselor to the Secretary (June 2022): Proposed Rule entitled Medication Guides: Patient Medication Information*
 - *LDT Slide Deck*

3/31 - Federally Qualified Health Center FHHC Tour and Inflation Reduction Act Presser with Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL-09).....page 50

- *Memo consists of:*
 - *Talking points*
 - *Biographies*
 - *Provisions of inflation reduction Act*



Secretary Xavier Becerra – Daily Schedule

Wednesday, March 29th, 2023

8:30am – 9:00am ET	DEPART RESIDENCE TO RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
9:00am – 10:00am ET	E&C POLLING PREP
10:00am – 1:00pm ET	HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE HEARINGS
1:00pm – 1:30pm ET	DEPART RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING FOR RESIDENCE
1:30pm – 2:00pm ET	LUNCH
2:00pm – 2:30pm ET	DAILY CHECK IN WITH DEPSEC ANDREA PALM
2:30pm – 3:00pm ET	DESK TIME
3:00pm – 3:30pm ET	WEEKLY COUNSELORS CHECK-IN
3:45pm – 4:00pm ET	HOLD: CMS CALL CENTERS PREP
4:00pm – 4:30pm ET	SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE TRUSTEES SPRING MEETING (WEEKLY CMS CHECK-IN)

4:30pm – 5:00pm ET	CMS HOT TOPICS (CMS WEEKLY CHECK-IN)
5:00pm – 5:30pm ET	DESK TIME
5:30pm – 6:00pm ET	WEEKLY CABINET CALL
5:30pm – 6:00pm ET	DEPART RESIDENCE TO THE WILLARD HOTEL
6:00pm – 6:30pm ET	REMARKS AT SAN ANTONIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL DINNER RECEPTION

DATE: March 24, 2023
TO: Xavier Becerra, Secretary
FROM: Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator
SUBJECT: CMS “Hot Topics” Briefing

Details

What: Secretary Briefing from CMS
Date: March 29, 2023
Time: 4:30-5:00 PM ET
Location: Zoom

Topic:

The briefing provides updates on the CMS Medicare and Marketplace call center.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- Sean McCluskie, Chief of Staff
- Stacy Sanders, Counselor to the Secretary
- Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary

Other HHS Divisions:

- Sam Bagenstos, Office of the General Counsel
- Paul Rodriguez, Office of the General Counsel
- Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Jonathan Blum, Principal Deputy Administrator & Chief Operating Officer, CMS
- Erin Richardson, Chief of Staff, CMS
- Kyla Ellis, Senior Advisor, Office of the Administrator, CMS

Secretary’s Role

Receive an update and ask follow-up questions related to the CMS call center.

Objectives

1. Provide updates on operations and contracting related to the CMS call center

Agenda for the Discussion:

1. Verbal update on the CMS Medicare and Marketplace call center



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

DATE: March 24, 2023

TO: Secretary Xavier Becerra

THROUGH: Angela Ramirez, Deputy Chief of Staff
Rachel Pryor, Counselor to the Secretary

FROM: Marvin Figueroa, Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Tania Calle, Special Assistant, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

SUBJECT: San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Reception

Details

What: Opening Remarks at the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Reception

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Time: 6:00 – 6:25 PM ET

Location: The Willard Hotel – Willard Room, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20043

External Event: Yes

Primary HHS POC(s): Tania Calle, IEA

Press: No

Topic:

The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Annual Reception, sponsored by the FirstDay Foundation, is the concluding reception for their four-day fly-in event in D.C.

Secretary's Role:

YOU will provide opening remarks focused on mental health and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Acknowledgements:

- YOU can thank the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event, and the delegates in the audience for their commitment to and advocacy for their city and neighbors.
- YOU can thank the FirstDay Foundation for being a partner in this space and in their work.

- YOU can thank both the Chamber and the FirstDay Foundation for their work with military service members who serve our country, many of whom are based out of San Antonio.

List of Participants:

IOS:

- YOU
- Cynthia Palafox, Director of Scheduling and Advance

Other HHS Divisions:

- Marvin Figueroa, Director, IEA
- Tania Calle, Special Assistant, IEA

Other External:

- Kevin Dinnin (**Din-en**), President & CEO, FirstDay Foundation (*greeter*)
- Krista Piferrer (**Pif-er-rare**), Executive Vice President for Public Affairs & Government Relations, FirstDay Foundation (*greeter*)
- John O'Hanlon, Partner, Ballard Partners (*greeter*)
- Katie Harvey, Chair, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce (*presenting award*)
- Dave Peterson, Chair, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce (*presenting award*)
- Henry Cisneros, Former US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (*attending*)
- Henry Bonilla, Former U.S. House of Representative (*attending*)
- JR Trevino, Mayor, Castle Hills (*attending*)
- Kevin Wolff, Former Bexar County 3rd Pct. Commissioner (*attending*)
- Rebecca Viagran, Former District 3 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Melissa Cabello Havrda, District 6 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Manny Pelaez, District 8 San Antonio City Council (*attending*)
- Adriana Rocha Garcia, District 4 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Teri Castillo, District 5 San Antonio City Councilwoman (*attending*)
- Grant Moody, Bexar County Pct. 3 Commissioner (*attending*)
- Charlie Cook, the Cook Political Report (*attending*)
- Additional Audience members: San Antonio civic, military, university, and business leaders.

Agenda/Run of Show:

Remarks will take place immediately next to the entrance of the Willard Room. There will be a hand-held microphone available. Attendees will be facing YOU from high top tables spread around the room.

6:05 PM YOU arrive and are greeted by Kevin Dinnin Krista Piferrer, and John O'Hanlon outside the Willard Room

6:05 – 6:11 PM	YOU mingle with the greeters
6:11 – 6:13 PM	YOU enter the Willard Room with the greeters
6:13 – 6:15 PM	Kevin Dinnin welcomes guests and introduces YOU
6:15 – 6:20 PM	YOU deliver remarks
6:20 – 6:24PM	Kevin Dinnin, Dave Peterson, and Katie Harvey present YOU with a pecan pie as a thank you
6:25 PM	YOU depart

Following YOUR remarks, attendees will continue to mingle at the reception before transitioning to the dinner portion of the evening.

Background:

Deputy Secretary Palm met with San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg in July 2022 on mental health supports, including 988, and social determinants of health actions out of the Department, including our work on hunger, nutrition, and health.

San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1894, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce convenes business leaders across San Antonio to address regional issues and challenges. The Commerce currently serves more than 1,650 members and represents 500,000 employees. In addition to mobilizing members around initiatives, the Commerce also connects members to business events, sponsorships, and networking opportunities.

Among these events, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce organizes an annual multiple day fly-in event for its members. The FirstDay Foundation is sponsoring this year's fly-in event. The fly-in will begin on March 27th when members arrive in Washington D.C. and attend a welcome reception. On the second and third day of the fly-in, March 28th and March 29th, members will lobby on Capitol Hill. The fly-in will conclude with a closing reception and dinner on the evening of March 29th and members will return to San Antonio on March 30th. YOU will be delivering remarks at the closing reception.

FirstDay Foundation

The FirstDay Foundation is the main sponsor for the closing reception and dinner of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce annual fly-in event, and the organization that invited YOU to participate in these evening events. YOU are only joining the reception portion of the evening.

The FirstDay Foundation is a philanthropic organization based in Texas that manages a \$600 million initial investment. These funds are directed towards regional, national, and international non-profits that advance the health and wellbeing of at-risk populations. More specifically, the FirstDay Foundation supports non-profit health and human services agencies that work with

survivors of child sex trafficking; victims of domestic violence; youth in and aging out of foster care; expectant mothers and young children living in rural communities and Colonias; and individuals with disabilities. Of note, the FirstDay Foundation underwrote the services of resource navigators for each family affected by the Uvalde shooting. These navigators helped families manage the range of public and private resources and funding provided to affected families following the shooting.

HHS Work to Respond to Trauma after Gun Violence

This group will care a great deal about trauma after gun violence response. As a reminder, YOUR department, particularly under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), has provided additional funding to schools, law enforcement, and the broader community to deal with trauma response. Specifically, the Project Aware program, the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative, and the Mental Health Awareness Training Program. YOUR SAMHSA team was working with Uvalde and Texas immediately after Uvalde, providing additional support and resources to engage trauma-informed care for the state.

In addition, on March 14, 2023, President Biden put forth an Executive Order (EO) on Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer. Among other items, this EO requires HHS and other agencies to report on what actions their respective agencies have taken to implement the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, data and analysis regarding the use and early effects of the Act, and additional steps their respective agencies will take to maximize the benefits of the Act.

HHS Actions Around Mental Health and Behavioral Health

HHS has engaged a full Department approach to delivering integrated and equitable behavioral health care. YOU started the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council soon after YOUR confirmation, with five priority areas (Overdose prevention, youth, Strengthening data and evaluation, crisis and suicide prevention, and behavioral health integration) for YOUR department's behavioral health work. Since that time, YOU issued the most progressive overdose prevention strategy to date, prioritizing harm reduction and long-term recovery, with demonstrated, quantitative results in the first two years. YOUR department rolled out 988, including a new nationwide chat and text function with a 98 percent response rate, more than doubled our capacity for the Spanish-language line, and is instituting a new LGBTQI+ line. Notably, the number of 988 centers answering calls in Spanish grew from three to seven last year and the Spanish language line saw an increase of 3,800 calls year over the year from November 2021 to November 2022. Lastly, in December, YOU and YOUR Department leadership co-authored a piece in *Health Affairs* which lays out the vision of the health system we are trying to create last year in response to the President's call to action. YOU have also led the single largest investment in behavioral health dollars in a generation, and broken down barriers to treatment in our coverage programs, including through increases in opioid treatment in Medicare and requiring new network adequacy standards in the Marketplace.

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1. Talking Points
2. Biographies for Non-HHS/USG Meeting Participants
3. Additional HHS Actions on Mental Health
4. Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act