

Healthy Communities

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009

CSI Event: State DOT Directors Roundtable

September 15, 2009

CSI, in partnership with AASHTO and Serrafix, organized a national meeting of state transportation directors. The meeting, held in Chicago, convened state transportation directors from CO, IA, KS, NC, PA, and WA and non-CSI policy experts from AASHTO and Pew. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and gather feedback from state DOT leaders on the proposal of a center/network to provide advanced technical assistance on a range of issues including smart growth, land use, sustainable development, climate change, fiscal constraints, and capital spending to improve sustainable transportation policy and practices.



Recent Publications on Health Policy

[Side-by-Side Comparison of Major Health Care Proposals,](#)

This [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) overview of Congressional Reform Packages includes the final version of the bill reported out of the Senate Finance Committee, and provides information on the likely state financial impact of the various bill.

[Aiming Higher: Results from a State Scorecard on Health System Performance 2009](#)

The [Commonwealth Fund](#) Commission on a High Performance Health System released its annual scorecard on state health system performance. The report assesses states' performance on health care on 38 benchmark indicators of access, quality, cost, and health outcomes.

[Supporting Culture Change: Working Toward Smarter State Nursing Home Regulation,](#)

This [Commonwealth Fund](#) report suggests that the states and federal government must strike a balance between the traditional regulatory approach to weed out substandard facilities and a partnership model aimed at promoting high performance.

[Health Reform Subsidy Calculator: Premium Assistance for Coverage in Exchanges/Gateways,](#)

The [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) has produced a tool to calculate health insurance subsidy payments for individuals under each of the major health care reform proposals currently under consideration in Congress.

[Health Coverage in the States: How Will Reform Help](#)

[Families USA](#) has published a series of fourteen single state analyses on the impact of health reform on state uninsurance rates, quality and insurance costs. States analyzed include [AR](#), [CO](#), [CT](#), [DE](#), [FL](#), [IN](#), [KS](#), [LA](#), [MO](#), [NE](#), [NV](#), [NC](#), [ND](#) and [PA](#).

[Better Health Through Better Information](#)

The [Center for American Progress](#) reports that poor quality and quantity of information about medical treatments and services hampers consumers' ability to make choices, and could result in sub-optimal health outcomes. Comparing the effectiveness of a range of treatments for a condition is a logical way of closing this information gap.

Spotlight on State Innovation

NEW HAMPSHIRE: INTRODUCING HEALTHFIRST



September 30, 2009

New Hampshire [Governor John Lynch](#) announced the statewide implementation of the [New](#)

[Hampshire HealthFirst](#) program. HealthFirst offers small business employees health insurance for 15 to 20 percent less than standard industry rates. The plan also places unusually strong emphasis on preventative care: individuals insured under HealthFirst are not charged copayments for preventative checkups and the program offers financial bonuses for individuals who participate in chronic disease management programs or those who quit smoking.

NEW JERSEY: EXPANDING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

October 6, 2009

[Governor Jon Corzine](#) of New Jersey announced a significant expansion of Medicaid family planning services.

The plan would offer family planning services such as health screenings and contraceptive counseling to all state residents between the ages of 18 and 49, with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The state expects that the expansion will save the state money in the long-term by preventing unplanned pregnancies and lowering the rate of sexually transmitted disease infection. The expansion was initially proposed in a Department of Health and Senior Services [Prenatal Task Force Report](#) published in July



KENTUCKY: HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE

September 18, 2009

Kentucky [Governor Steve Beshear](#) announced the beginning of construction of the [Kentucky Health Insurance Exchange](#), an integrated health information system that aims to provide better information to patients, improve quality of care and lower costs associated with medical waste. The current program is being funded by a "Medicaid Transformation Grant" from the US Department of Health and Human Services. Kentucky is also seeking [American Reinvestment and Recovery Act](#) funding to enhance and expand the current project.

NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

Featured Program:

[Green for All](#) and the city of Portland have partnered in a [Community Workforce Agreement](#) to ensure job opportunities and standards for thousands of new clean-energy workers. Program elements were created through a collaboration between public, private, nonprofit, community, and labor organizations to establish career pathways and ensure high-quality jobs for workers from low-income and other historically underserved populations.

CONTACT US

Mail:
1180 Observatory Drive-
Suite 7122
Madison WI 53706

Fax: (608) 262-9046

Tel: (608) 890-2400

Email:

info@stateinnovation.org

Visit us online at www.stateinnovation.org