



Center for Health Transformation E-Newsletters

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August 2005

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****Medicaid Transformation Update****

Summer is nearly over, and as lawmakers return to D.C., the momentum for Medicaid transformation is building

The Center for Health Transformation is leading the way on Medicaid transformation, an issue that is sure to be making headlines this Fall. As we prepare for our September 20th Member Meeting and Medicaid forum, "Creating a 21st Century Medicaid System," we wanted to provide an update on recent Medicaid activity.

Newt speaks to the National Press Club (8/19/05)

On August 19th, CHT Founder Newt Gingrich spoke at the National Press Club and offered innovative ideas for saving lives and saving money in the Medicaid system. The speech, entitled "A Vision for a 21st Century Medicaid Solution," demonstrated ways to infuse the Medicaid program with the values of quality, accessibility and accountability. Speaker Gingrich discussed the implications of the current Medicaid structure and outlined key components of a solution in the form of a 21st Century Responsible Citizen Medicaid Act.

"A Vision for a 21st Century Medicaid Solution"

- [Watch the Video](#)
- [Download the Audio/MP3](#)
- [View the Transcript](#)
- [Read the CHT Medicaid Handout](#)

The National Press Club speech laid the groundwork for the September 20th Center for Health Transformation event, "Creating a 21st Century Medicaid System," where CHT and Newt Gingrich will host the event and CMS Administrator Dr. Mark McClellan will give the lunchtime address. Other confirmed speakers include Governor Mark Warner (D-VA), Governor Mark Huckabee (R-AK), Congressman Nathan Deal (R-GA) and Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL). At the September 20th event, CHT will host panels of experts who will present a variety of transforming solutions that are saving lives and saving money across the country.

"Medicaid is projected to spend \$340 billion in 2006 in combined federal and state dollars. I encourage everyone to think of this program not as a problem, but as an opportunity for real progress," asserted Speaker Gingrich. "A 21st Century Responsible Citizen Medicaid Act would empower those who depend on Medicaid and align incentives so that patients receive markedly better care at lower cost in an environment where physicians, hospitals, pharmacists and nursing homes compete for patients based on the value of their services."

Speaker Gingrich argued that Medicaid as it exists today is actually three separate programs, and it should be adapted to reflect that reality. For the relatively healthy poor, for instance, a system of vouchers for private health insurance (in cooperation with President Bush's tax cuts) could provide coverage in a comprehensive manner. Programs for individuals with disabilities – a "Capabilities" program – and those in need of long term living care were also discussed.

Speaker Gingrich described the Center's vision of a 21st Century Medicaid System, stressing that the principles of such a system include a focus on wellness and prevention, optimized patient outcomes, flexibility for states, bringing health IT into the mainstream, and integrating the family into the healthcare and lives of loved ones. Regarding Medicaid, CHT believes that the best solution may in fact be a comprehensive approach within a system where the individual is empowered and has a right to know the quality and cost of the care they receive.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CHT 3rd Quarterly Member Meeting: "Creating a 21st Century Medicaid System"

9/20/05: *Our 3rd Quarterly Member Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 20th and will focus on Medicaid best practices. We are very excited about the educational and networking opportunities available for our members. This event will provide an opportunity to network with, learn from, and share solutions with influential leaders, innovators and decision-makers who are all dedicated to the transformation of Medicaid. There will be a members-only agenda in the morning before the conference.*

LOCATION:

The Renaissance Mayflower
1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-347-3000

September 2005

9/15/05-Newt Gingrich to join Congressman Patrick Kennedy and industry leaders in the fight for a national electronic health records network at "No More Excuses: Business and Health Information Technology." (Washington, D.C.)

Registration and breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m.; the program and lunch will follow from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are interested registering for

*the U.S Chamber Event, please visit:
<http://events.uschamber.com/conference/brochure/index.cfm?ConferenceID=87>. For more information,*

contact Scott Eisner at the U.S. Chamber, 202-463-5500.

9/19/05-Newt Gingrich to speak to Prescription Drug Marketing Act Sharing Conference (Orlando, FL)

9/20/05-CHT 3rd Quarterly Member Meeting: Creating a 21st Century Medicaid System (Washington, D.C.)

9/29/05-Newt Gingrich to speak at 3rd Annual Revolution Symposium (Kiawah Island, SC)

9/30/05-Newt Gingrich to speak to Spectrum Health Board Retreat (Grand

Rapids, MI)

October 2005

10/5/05-Newt Gingrich to speak to The Florida Association of Health Plans (Orlando, FL)

10/17/05-Newt Gingrich to speak to The National Community of Pharmacists Association (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

10/18/05-CHT EVENT: CHT Best Practices in RHIOs (Washington, D.C.)

10/21/05-Newt Gingrich to speak to The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (Boca Raton, FL)

10/28/05-Newt Gingrich to speak to The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (Washington, D.C.)

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