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Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare Capacity, Strategy, and Experience

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Health Policy Center, "Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare Capacity, Strategy, and Experience" (2018). *GHPC Materials*. 69.

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GEORGIA MEDICAID AND PEACHCARE CAPACITY, STRATEGY, AND EXPERIENCE



The Georgia Health Policy Center's (GHPC's) core competencies include neutral convening and facilitation; strategic planning; policy analysis; evaluation; grants management; and systems thinking, as well as knowledge creation, management, and transfer. Throughout our 20-year history, these competencies are consistently reflected in our work. Some of the center's projects that have incorporated these competencies and directly impacted the lives of Georgia's citizens, include the ongoing work of the Medicaid Policy and Business Team and PeachCare for Kids® evaluation, as well as our prior work on Medicaid reform and transformation.

Medicaid Policy and Business Team

Since 2014, through a contract with Georgia's Department of Community Health (DCH), GHPC's Medicaid Policy and Business Team has provided policy expertise and guidance to develop and implement policy changes, program improvements, and business solutions for Georgia Medicaid and for PeachCare for Kids, the state's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The Medicaid Policy and Business Team performs both quantitative and qualitative analyses as requested by the DCH, including but not limited to policy reviews, compliance assessments, claims-based research, state and federal policy scans, and stakeholder interviews. In addition, the Medicaid Policy and Business Team assists DCH with implementation of new or revised policies.

The Medicaid team also provides additional staff capacity and assistance with long-term strategy by working directly with DCH leadership to reorganize the Policy, Quality, and Outcomes Unit. The Medicaid team now provides on-site capacity, oversight, and strategic leadership in the Policy, Quality, and Outcomes Unit while DCH implements its long-term strategy.

PeachCare for Kids

In 1998, as a direct result of the concern for children's health that was expressed during the Medicaid Reform project, GHPC was awarded a state grant to replicate the Florida Healthy Kids program in Georgia to provide subsidized insurance to low-income children. Since GHPC had begun the groundwork for providing coverage to uninsured children, the governor asked the center to assist in planning, developing, and implementing Georgia's CHIP, PeachCare for Kids, when the law was enacted by Congress.

Work included assistance with premium design, eligibility determination, claims processing, program administration, logo selection, outreach, and marketing. Because of our expertise and knowledge, GHPC continues to serve as the outside evaluator for PeachCare for Kids. The evaluation assesses the program's effectiveness in achieving several goals: improved access to insurance, primary care, and high-quality health services, as well as better health outcomes.



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ANDREW YOUNG SCHOOL
OF POLICY STUDIES

Medicaid Reform

In 1996, Gov. Zell Miller asked the Georgia Coalition for Health and GHPC to help the state determine how to make long-term changes in the Medicaid system to achieve greater stability and budget predictability. Working with an interdisciplinary research team of 25 nationally recognized health care experts, GHPC undertook a multifaceted approach for studying the Medicaid program. This approach included:

- Development of a six-year economic and demographic forecast for Georgia;
- Review and analysis of current Medicaid reform efforts both in Georgia and nationally;
- Cultivation of public input from more than 1,200 citizens, Medicaid consumers, and providers;
- Analysis of the existing and planned health care markets;
- Analytic assessment of the future impact of Medicaid changes on the various components of these markets; and
- Development of economic actuarial models.

The work resulted in recommendations that led to state action in the areas of physical health, long-term care, children's health, and the rural health care safety net.

Medicaid Transformation

In 2005, Gov. Sonny Purdue commissioned the Medicaid Modernization Initiative. This effort was intended to supply the research base and stakeholder participation to support a Medicaid waiver. This waiver would help Georgia to find the optimal balance between fiscal and programmatic constraints and the diverse needs of the state's population.

GHPC managed a statewide project that included working with the Governor's Office, key legislators, and more than 260 Medicaid stakeholders, including recipients, providers, advocacy groups, and the business community, to inform Medicaid reform and improve the health of Georgians. The scope of GHPC's work included a whole-scale change process meeting with almost 300 attendees, data analyses and modeling, structured listening sessions around Georgia to collect stakeholder input, and the integration of the work of five subcommittees (long-term care, services, outcomes, finance, and eligibility).

GHPC Faculty and Staff Expertise



Karen Minyard, Ph.D.

Karen Minyard has been executive director of GHPC at Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies since 2001. Minyard connects the research, policy, and programmatic work of the center across issue areas, including public health, end-of-life care, children's health, public and private health coverage, and the uninsured. She has extensive experience with the state Medicaid program, both with the design of a reformed Medicaid program and the external evaluation of the primary care case management program. Additionally, Minyard had 13 years of experience in nursing and hospital administration.



Kathleen Adams, Ph.D.

Kathleen Adams is a professor in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and works as a health economist in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Division of Reproductive Health. She has more than 25 years of experience in applied economic analysis with much of her research focused on low-income and vulnerable populations and on Medicaid policies and issues. Adams has published 90-plus articles on topics ranging from hospital markets and hospital choice among rural Medicare beneficiaries to physician participation in Medicaid and effects of this participation on access to services for Medicaid and CHIP-enrolled children.



William Custer, Ph.D.

Bill Custer is an expert in the areas of employee benefits, health care financing, and health insurance. Prior to joining Georgia State University, he ran his own research firm in Washington, D.C. Custer also has been the director of research at the Employee Benefit Research Institute in D.C., as well as serving as an economist in the Center for Health Policy Research at the American Medical Association. He authored numerous articles and studies on the health care delivery system, insurance, retirement income security, and employee benefits. Custer is the director of the Center for Health Services Research and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Risk Management and Insurance.



Chandrika Derricho

Chandrika Derricho is a licensed clinical social worker and research associate II on the Medicaid Policy and Business Team at GHPC. Derricho serves as the clinical expert for the team and manages projects related to qualitative data collection and analysis, maternal and child health, and behavioral health. She also has experience in the areas of long-term services and supports, policy research, and program evaluation. Specifically, she has expertise in data collection and analysis, fidelity evaluation, and process monitoring.



Patricia Ketsche, Ph.D.

Pat Ketsche received her Ph.D. in risk management and insurance from J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University and was part of the faculty of the Institute of Health Administration for almost two decades. She is now a fellow of GHPC. Ketsche has done extensive research work for various public and private organizations using the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey data and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey data to evaluate the existing distribution of health insurance in the population and the effect of policy proposals on coverage. She has also participated in projects relating to cost containment for Medicaid and assistance for rural health care providers by analyzing claims data and utilization patterns of various populations.



Glenn M. Landers, Sc.D.

Glenn Landers is an associate project director at GHPC. Landers' primary areas of expertise are in long-term care and access for the uninsured. From 2002 to 2005, he co-led Georgia's HRSA State Planning Grant for the Uninsured. In 2004, he led a research project that analyzed the costs and outcomes of Georgia Medicaid's nursing facility program and home- and community-based services programs for the Georgia Department of Community Health. He also led an evaluation of Georgia's Indigent Care Trust Fund Primary Care Plan and an evaluation of Georgia's Medicaid disease management program. Landers received a B.S. from Syracuse University, MBA and M.H.A. degrees from Georgia State University, and his Sc.D. from Tulane University.



James Marton, Ph.D.

Jim Marton is a health economist whose research, which combines theoretical and empirical methods, examines the financing of public and private health insurance programs. His work has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Health Economics*, *Economic Theory, Inquiry*, and *Health Services Research*. Prior to joining the faculty at the Andrew Young School, Marton was at the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Kentucky and a postdoctoral research associate at Brown University.



Bill Rencher, J.D., M.P.H.

Bill Rencher is an attorney and senior adviser at GHPC. He assists the Medicaid team with evidence-based research, policy analysis, and program guidance for Georgia's Medicaid program. Rencher also has experience with hospital financial assistance programs, federal and state health care laws and regulations, the Affordable Care Act, and research ethics. Rencher is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, Health Law section, and his work has appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*.



Jessica Smith, Ph.D.

Jessica Smith is a senior research associate on the Medicaid Policy and Business Team at GHPC. As a member of the team, she brings her experience in managing and analyzing Medicaid claims data and large data sets to provide support for quantitative analyses and policy evaluations. Prior to joining GHPC, Smith earned her Ph.D. in population health sciences from the University of Wisconsin, with a focus on health services research and health economics. During her graduate studies, she worked on several projects related to behavioral health care coverage and access to care for the Medicaid and Medicare populations.



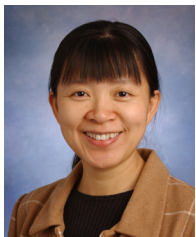
Angela Snyder, Ph.D.

Angela Snyder is an assistant research professor at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. She works with DCH on several projects evaluating public insurance programs for children. These projects include reporting on annual programmatic performance measures for Georgia's CHIP and Medicaid programs and additional projects that have included research to examine access and satisfaction with public insurance programs and statistical modeling to measure the enrollment and cost impacts of proposed state and federal policy changes.



Carla Willis, Ph.D.

Carla Willis is the associate project director of the Medicaid Policy and Business Team at GHPC. She leads projects requiring quantitative and qualitative analysis, health policy development, legislative evaluation, and business solutions for the Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs. Before joining GHPC, Willis worked for the Atlanta branch of the Government Accountability Office as a health policy analyst researching and evaluating a variety of public health programs and health care delivery issues. She also completed a one-year fellowship as a population health fellow at the CDC.



Mei Zhou, M.S., M.A.

Mei Zhou is a senior research associate at GHPC. She has experience with large data sets, especially Medicaid eligibility and claims analysis. She has worked on many research projects, including analyzing the costs and outcomes of Georgia Medicaid's nursing facility program and home- and community-based services programs; the member and provider satisfaction surveys and the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems surveys for Georgia Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids programs; and an evaluation of Georgia's disease management programs for aged, blind, and disabled Medicaid consumers for APS Healthcare and United HealthCare.

Select Publications and Reports

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