

09/17/2021

Good Evening REDC Members,

Here is your weekly policy update!

- **Telehealth**

- **Optum Extends Telehealth Coverage**

- Optum has extended their commercial plan coverage for telehealth services provided at the IOP/PHP level from September 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021
 - The notice can be read here: [https://www.providerexpress.com/content/ope-provexpr/us/en/COVID-19 Provider Updates/COVID-19 IOP-PHP Telehealth Policies.html](https://www.providerexpress.com/content/ope-provexpr/us/en/COVID-19%20Provider%20Updates/COVID-19%20IOP-PHP%20Telehealth%20Policies.html)

- **REDC Telemental Health One-Pager**

- The one-pager we have created to inform Congressional staff and federal agencies on the benefits for telehealth has been updated to reflect recent studies.
 - The one-pager is attached for reference.

- **Affordable Care Act / Health Insurance**

- **CMS Proposes New Insurer Transparency Regulations**

- Insurers selling ACA plans or short-term health coverage would have to disclose any financial ties with insurance agents or brokers under a [new proposed rule](#) by the Biden administration.
 - The companies would also need to report how much they've paid the agent or broker, in an effort to boost transparency of the arrangements and underpinning plans sold on the individual market.
 - This proposal is part of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services implementation of the No Surprises Act that Congress passed last year.

- **2.8 Million Enrolled in ACA Plans During Special Enrollment Period**

- The additional enrollees have pushed the reliance on ACA health plans to 12.2 million, the highest level since the insurance marketplaces created under the law first offered health plans in 2014.
 - The next enrollment period opens on November 1, 2021.

- **National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Release Health Plan Report Cards**

- Each year, NCQA rates more than 1,000 health plans in all 50 states, U.S. territories and DC.
- NCQA's Health Plan Ratings provide information to assist consumers, employers and others understand a health plan's quality.
 - Ratings are based on performance in areas of prevention, treatment and patient experience.
- See the report cards [here](#).
- **Census Data Shows No Spike In Uninsured Rate, Gaps Persist in Non-Medicaid Expansion States**
 - At 8.6% in 2020, the uninsured rate remained largely unchanged from 2018.
 - Medicaid played a significant role in mitigating coverage losses, as administrative data indicate that the program helped protect against losses as COVID-19 takes hold.
 - Medicaid and CHIP enrollment rose by 8.9 million (12.5%) from February through December 2020.

• **NDAAs Status in the House:**

- The House Rules Committee accepted amendments this week for the NDAA Floor Vote. Over 800 were submitted!
 - We paid close attention to ensure no amendments were submitted to jeopardize SERVE – and fortunately there were none!
 - This means we're looking good for the House Floor Vote – time to pivot to Senate (more below)
- Rep. Meng surprised us by submitting an amendment we previously wrote with her for FY22 Defense Appropriations
 - This amendment would require training for all direct care-providing military health professionals on eating disorders identification, intervention, and referral
 - You can read it [here](#)
 - We are taking this opportunity to push for the Meng amendment as well – especially in the House, where SERVE is already taken care of
- Rules Committee meets on Monday at noon to determine which submitted amendments will be up for vote on the House Floor
 - We're working closely with Rules and HASC leaders to prep the Meng amendment for a smooth passage – and we're confident!

• **NDAAs Status in the Senate:**

- The Senate is just now coming back from August recess -we are in close communication with Senate SERVE co-sponsors Shaheen and

Tillis so they are ready to submit the SERVE amendment for floor consideration.

- Next Steps:
 - **House Floor Passage:** House will need to pass the full NDAA (and the Meng amendment, ideally) on the Floor
 - **Senate Floor Amendment & Passage:** Senator Shaheen & Tillis will submit the House SERVE amendment language during the Senate Floor vote which is expected end of September or early October. We are in the process of identifying Senate leads for the Meng amendment.
 - **Conference Negotiations:** Then both the House & Senate NDAA will need to be negotiated (called conferenced) for differences, and have one more vote in both Chambers

Have a great weekend!
Center Road Solutions Team