Critical Access Hospital Coalition
August 1, 2017
CAH Coalition

• Current Coalition of 50 CAHs created 4 years ago.
• Response to Obama Administration attacks against CAHs.
• New, expanded CAH Coalition is being formed now.
  – Greater threats to CAHs
  – Greater demand for ACTION!
**Comparison of Population Health in Rural and Non-Rural Hospital Communities**

*Population Health metrics are percentile ranked for all acute care rural and non-rural providers by hospital service area such that lower ranks indicate greater population challenges.*

**Lower percentile scores indicate higher density (i.e. providers serving a greater proportion of individuals over 65 receive lower scores).**

**Figure 1.** Rural hospitals serve populations that suffer from various health disparities and poorer outcomes than non-rural providers.

ACA Repeal & Replace

• The Affordable Care Act repeal and replace is dead, for now.

• What’s Next?
  – 43 moderate Republicans and Democrats in the House are working together to fix the ACA.
  – A bipartisan group of senators are developing a solution for covering counties where no exchange insurance is available.
  – A bipartisan group of representatives and senators are urging the President to continue exchange subsidies.
340B

• Draft Executive Order on prescription drugs
• CMS proposed rule would reimburse hospitals for Part B drugs purchased through the 340B program at a rate of average sales price minus 22.5%  
  – CAHs exempt from this proposal
• Key House committee investigating 340B  
  – Increase HRSA audit authority, require more accounting, and impose ‘user-fees’ to support HRSA audit program
Rural Health

- **Trump FY18 Budget** – removes Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants, zeroes out funds for State Office of Rural Health, decreases telemedicine funding, further cuts Medicaid

- **Introduced Legislation** –
  - The Critical Access and Rural Equity (CARE) Act (H.R. 3224) would clarify the definition of CAH Medicare allowable costs to include patient- and physician-related expenses presently not covered.
  - Save Rural Hospitals Act would make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.
  - Rural Emergency Acute Care Hospital Act would create a new Rural Emergency Hospital classification under Medicare allowing a hospital to have an emergency room and outpatient services only.
  - Rural Hospital Regulatory Relief Act of 2017 would permanently extend the enforcement moratorium on “direct supervision” of outpatient therapeutic services for critical access hospitals and small, rural hospitals with 100 or fewer beds.
A Voice for Essential Rural Hospitals

• Current CAH Coalition has already:
  – Stopped the 10 mile rule
  – Delayed implementation of MIPS penalties
  – Protected 101% reimbursement
  – Commented on CMS regulations to repeal 96 hour rule and prevent accreditation reports from being publicly available

• New Policy Initiatives:
  – Re-define “reasonable” or “allowable” costs for CAHs
  – Support for 340B Drug Pricing Program
  – Identify and pursue new revenue opportunities for CAHs
  – Oppose HHS OIG proposals on CAHs
  – Hospital Star Rating program
Benefits of Membership

• Work with peers to develop new CAH policies.
• Ramp up CAH advocacy within Congress, Administration and raise your hospital’s profile.
• More interaction with CMS officials.
• Participate in regular phone conferences and periodic in-person meetings only for CAHs.
• Engage in educational updates with CAH-specific webinars.
  – Sept. 7 webinar: Federal funds available for rural internet infrastructure
• Get monthly newsletters tailored to CAHs.
Benefits of Membership

• Dedicated staff
  – Executive Director, Audrey Smith
  – Operations Manager, Emma Lange
  – Membership Director

• Policy and Advocacy Support
  – Strategic Health Care’s Washington team will continue to provide regulatory analysis and lobbying strength.
Next Steps

Want more info?

• Call or email Audrey Smith
  – 202-266-2661; Audrey.Smith@CAHCoalition.com
• Visit the website: www.cahcoalition.com
• Request or download the Membership Form
• Request a presentation (webinar) to your Board or Leadership Team
• Annual fee is being reduced: Now $400 a month
• Sign Up!
Contact

Please visit our website at www.cahcoalition.com.

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