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Health Care for All New York Annual Meeting: An Overview

Health Care for All New York (HCFANY), of which the Schuyler Center is a Steering Committee member, is a coalition of over 170 advocacy organizations dedicated to ensuring that all New Yorkers have high-quality affordable coverage. Last month HCFANY held its annual spring meeting in Albany. Health advocates from around the State gathered to review HCFANY's recent accomplishments and plan next steps. The agenda was robust and included presentations on the Essential Health Plan, formally known as BHP; immigrant coverage; network adequacy and payment and delivery system reform initiatives. Each presentation was followed by a breakout session where participants were able to drill down on issues specific to each topic.

During the panel discussion on coverage to care, Schuyler Center's Lauren Tobias facilitated the payment and delivery system reform presentation where she provided a comprehensive overview of health initiatives in New York. The presentation highlighted the four health initiatives (NYS Prevention Agenda, State Innovation Health Plan (SHIP), Medicaid's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program and Population Health Improvement Program) within the State on payment and delivery system reform and drilled down key specifics of each.

Following the presentations the Children, Youth and Family Taskforce (CYF) held a meeting to discuss coverage gaps and barriers to access to care in New York State. Currently, less than 6% of New York's children are uninsured, a major accomplishment in the state. However, there is still work to be done to connect the remaining uninsured children to coverage and maintain affordable coverage options such as CHIP, which Congress reauthorized for only two years. At the meeting CYF presented pediatric data on general health outcomes, oral health and behavioral health. While sharing the data with participants CYF identified potential points of collaboration to work on to improve network adequacy work and started a discussion on the need to address children's mental health denials. Children's behavioral health was a particular area of interest and concern among participants.

As both HCFANY and the CYF taskforce plan next steps we will continue to share new information as it becomes available.