DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

[CMS–2312–N]

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration

Medicaid and CHIP Programs; Meeting of the CHIP Working Group—April 26, 2010

AGENCIES: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), Department of Labor (DOL).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the first meeting of the Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (“CHIP”), and Employer-Sponsored Coverage Coordination Working Group (referred to as the “CHIP Working Group”). The CHIP Working Group will meet to address objectives specified under section 311(b)(1)(C) of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. This meeting is open to the public.

DATES: Meeting Date: Monday, April 26, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (E.S.T.).

Deadline for Registration without Oral Presentation: April 21, 2010, 12 p.m., E.S.T.

Deadline for Registration of Oral Presentations: April 12, 2010 12 p.m., E.S.T.

Deadline for Submission of Oral Remarks and Written Comments: April 12, 2010 12 p.m., E.S.T.

Deadline for Requesting Special Accommodations: April 12, 2010 12 p.m., E.S.T.

ADDRESSES: Meeting Location: The meeting will be held at the Omni Shoreham, 2500 Calvert Street, NW, at Connecticut Avenue in Washington, DC 20008.

Submission of Testimony: Testimonies should be mailed to Stacey Green, Designated Federal Official (DFO), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Boulevard, Mail stop C2–04–04, Baltimore, MD 21244–1850, or contact the DFO via e-mail at stacey.green@cms.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stacey Green, DFO, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, DHHS at (410) 786–6102, or Amy Turner,

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), this notice announces the first meeting of the Medicaid, CHIP, and Employer-Sponsored Coverage Coordination Working Group (“CHIP Working Group”). The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor are required under section 311(b)(1)(C) of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–3), enacted February 4, 2009, to jointly establish a CHIP Working Group. The membership of the group is based on nominations submitted in response to a Federal Register solicitation notice published on May 1, 2009 (74 FR 20323). The CHIP Working Group will meet two times to develop a model coverage coordination disclosure form for group health plan administrators to send to States upon request regarding benefits available under the plan. This notice will enable States to determine the availability and cost-effectiveness of providing premium assistance to individuals eligible for benefits under titles XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act (the Act) to enable them to enroll in group health plans. The CHIP Working Group will identify and report on the impediments to the effective coordination of coverage available to families that include employees of employers that maintain group health plans and members who are eligible for medical assistance under title XIX of the Act or child health assistance or other health benefits coverage under title XXI of the Act. Not later than August 5, 2010, the CHIP Working Group must submit to the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services the model coverage coordination disclosure form and the report containing recommendations for appropriate measures for addressing the impediments to the effective coordination of coverage.

The CHIP Working Group consists of 22 individuals, including 2 Co-Chairs. Members of the CHIP Working Group are composed of representatives of the Department of Labor (DOL); the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); State directors of the Medicaid Program under title XIX of the Act; State directors of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI of the Act; employers, including owners of small businesses and their trade or industry representatives and certified human resource and payroll professionals; plan administrators and plan sponsors of group health plans as defined in section 607(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended; health insurance issuers; and representatives of children and other beneficiaries of medical assistance under title XIX of the Act or child health assistance or other health benefits coverage under title XXI of the Act. Members serve for the duration of the committee.

The current members are:
- Department of Labor: Phyllis Borzi;
- Department of HHS: Victoria Wachino;
- State Representatives, including Medicaid and CHIP Directors: Mari Spaulding-Bynon, Rhonda Medows, Howard “Rocky” King, Ann Clemency Kohler, Janet Osieowski, Linda Sheppard, and Anita Smith;
- Employers, Plan Sponsors, and Plan Administrators: Emma Bennett-Williams, Barbara Caress, Roberta Casper Watson, Greta Cowart, Kaye Pestaina, and Mark Stember;
- Health Insurance Issuers: Terry Bayer, Ellyn Fuchsteiner, and Kevin Hayden; and
- Representatives of Children and Other Beneficiaries of Medical Assistance: Joan Alker, George Askew, Miguel Carranza, and Karen Pollitz.

II. Meeting Format and Agenda

The meeting will commence with welcoming remarks for the CHIP Working Group by Departmental representatives. In addition, the agenda will focus on the following:
- Opening statements from the Co-Chairs, as well as introductions and remarks by other CHIP Working Group members;
- Swearing in of members;
- An overview of FACA requirements;
- An overview by DOL and HHS staff of the deliverables that the CHIP Working Group is responsible for under CHIPRA:
  + A model coverage coordination disclosure form for plan administrators of group health plans;
  + A report containing recommendations for appropriate measures for addressing the impediments to the effective coordination of coverage between group health plans and title XIX and XXI State plans.
- An opportunity for public comment and testimony.

For additional information and clarification on these topics, contact the DFO as provided in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this notice. Individual or organizational stakeholders that represent the focus area of the CHIP Working Group wishing to present a 5–minute oral testimony on agenda issues must register with the DFO by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice. Testimony is limited to agenda topics only. The number of oral testimonies may be limited by the time available. A written copy of the presenter’s oral remarks must be submitted to the DFO for distribution to CHIP Working Group members for review before the meeting by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice. Individual and organizational stakeholders not scheduled to speak may also submit written comments to the DFO for distribution by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice.

III. Meeting Registration and Security Information

The meeting is open to the public, but attendance is limited to the space available. Persons wishing to attend this meeting must register by contacting the DFO at the address listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice or by telephone at the number listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this notice by the date specified in the DATES section of this notice.

Individuals requiring sign language interpretation or other special accommodations must contact the DFO via the contact information specified in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this notice by the date listed in the DATES section of this notice.

Authority: Section 1866 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ee) and section 10(a) of Pub. L. 92–463 (5 U.S.C. App. 2, section 10(a)).


Charlene Frizzera,
Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.


Michael L. Davis,
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor.

[FR Doc. 2010–7225 Filed 3–29–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4120–01–P; 4510–29–P