Rural Health: The ACA, KanCare Expansion, and Other Issues

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Takeaways

• The ACA has enhanced access to care in rural areas, but problems persist

• KanCare expansion remains critical

• The path forward is uncertain
The ACA and Rural Health
Percentage of Uninsured is Lower than Ever (and Dropping)

Source: US Census Bureau
Uninsurance in Key Kansas Agricultural Counties is Declining

Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
Quality: Errors & Harm Declining

Change in Rate of Patient Harm in U.S. Hospitals
Percent change in harm rate since 2010

Source: HHS Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, Oct 2015
Kansas hospital network reduces rate of acquired infections

But information about quality of care at individual hospitals still hard to find

By Meg Wingert | October 10, 2016

As part of a federal quality improvement effort, Kansas hospitals are reducing the odds that patients will get certain types of infections.

And while that effort provides information on hospital quality throughout the state, finding information about the quality of care at individual hospitals remains a challenge.

The Kansas Healthcare Collaborative runs a hospital engagement network that includes 106 of the state's 133 hospitals. Through a federally funded program, hospitals in the network are working to reduce patient harm and hospital readmissions by sharing their best practices.
Cost: Health Inflation is Moderating

Growth in Real Per-Enrollee Health Care Spending

Source: National Health Expenditure Accounts and Projections, CMS Office of the Actuary; Bureau of Economic Analysis; CEA calculations.
Note: Medicare growth rate for 2006 reflects non-drug spending only to avoid distortions from the creation of Medicare Part D.
Cost: Financial Outlook Improving

- Long-term health care spending down
- Solvency of Medicare program extended
- Health care share of federal deficit down
Cumulative Increases in Health Insurance Premiums, General Annual Deductibles, Inflation, and Workers’ Earnings, 2011-2016

NOTE: Average general annual deductible is among all covered workers. Workers in plans without a general annual deductible for in-network services are assigned a value of zero.

What ACA Provides to Rural Kansas

• Guaranteed Issue and Community Rating
  – Farmers and ranchers cannot be excluded or charged more due to occupation, pre-existing conditions

• Essential Benefits

• Options for Coverage
Problems Persist in Rural Kansas

• Demographics
  – Declining population
  – Aging population

• Shortages of physicians and other providers
  – Mental health & dental “crisis”

• Shaky finances for hospitals
  – Increasing local tax burden

• Lagging economy
In states that do not expand Medicaid, there is a gap in coverage available for adults.
Current Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2016
Benefits of KanCare Expansion

Medicaid Expansion
It just makes sense!
Budget Neutral
Brings Tax Dollars Back to Kansas

Federal funds forfeited since January 1, 2014:

$1,535,017,788

A new Kansas solution will keep our Federal funds here at home.

Keep Kansas Healthy

Source: kha-net.org, Nov 19, 2016, 11:24 AM
Economic Stimulus
New Jobs
Kansas-Specific Plan
Financial Security for Families
Healthy Kansans
Advocacy

www.ExpandKanCare.com
@ExpandKanCare
The Path Forward: Where Do We Go From Here?
• ACA Repeal and . . . ?

• Future of Medicare and Medicaid

• Federal funding for rural Kansas

• Specific rural issues will persist
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