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Is It Easier to Pass a State Budget In a Year With a Billion Dollar Revenue Deficit or Is It Easier to Pass a Budget In a Year With a \$1.5 Billion Surplus?

The answer may lie in the number of days it took the Legislature to pass a budget. In 2003, the first session of the 46th Legislature, the State Legislature tackled a budget with a revenue shortfall of a billion dollars. It took 158 days to produce a budget that could stretch depleted revenues in order to meet the funding demands of a growing state. The final budget consisted of drastic budget cuts, accounting gimmicks such as roll-overs and "fiscal bridges". Fortunately, after a long, laborious battle, Community Health Centers were able to retain level funding in 2003.

In the end, the budget priorities were \$370 million in income and property tax cuts in FY 2007 (and more for '08), a large amount set aside for the "rainy day" fund, paying off the accounting gimmicks from past budgets and funding formula driven programs, such as AHCCCS and education. Funding to "control" illegal immigration was a high priority. The Legislature also opted to make a large investment in private and public education and transportation.

In the waning hours of the session, the Community Health Centers were given an additional \$3 million for the Primary Care Program and \$200,000 for a mobile dental clinic. Several Legislators deserve credit for refusing to vote on a budget that did not include some restoration of funding for Community Health Centers. AACHC would like to thank the following "Champions": Representatives Konopnicki, McClain, Mason, McClure, O'Halleran, Hershberger, Burns, Jones, Knaperek and Brown and Senators Flake, Bee, Miranda, and Cannell.

And thanks to all our members who contacted their Legislators and encouraged them to continue fighting for Community Health Center funding!

This year Legislators started the budget process with a surplus of over a billion dollars and a lot of optimism. Health, human services, and education advocates expected a restoration of their funding which was lost in the lean years and hoped for increased funding to meet an ever increasing demand for services. They soon discovered that they were competing with funding requests for transportation, prisons, technology and a myriad of other special interest groups. Negotiations between the Governor and Legislative leadership began in early March. Finally, on July 21st, the Legislature transmitted a budget to the Governor and she promptly signed it. The Legislature Sine Die (d) after midnight on July 22nd.

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National Health Observances

July is:

- UV Safety Month
- Fireworks Safety Month
- Hemochromatosis Screening Awareness Month
- Lead Poison Control Week (20-26)

Plan To Attend

13TH ANNUAL REGION IX MANAGEMENT TRAINING CONFERENCE

Play To Win, Direct and Lead

Monday, October 23 Through Thursday, October 26, 2006



Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe
Resort, Spa, and Casino
111 Country Club Drive
Incline Village, NV 89451
(800) 553-3288





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\$575.00*
Per Attendee

*\$575.00 per attendee if registered on or before September 23rd, 2006. \$625.00 thereafter.

The Region IX Management Training Conference is designed for Medical, Dental, Executive Directors and key management staff who are employed by Community and Migrant Health Centers and other primary care clinics.

This year's conference will have several marquee presentations such as the American College of Physician Executives' Leadership Training; Emergency Preparedness; a Key Note address by Dr. Jack Dillenberg of the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health entitled "Compassion: Inborn or Bred" and Continuation of the theme of strategic partnerships between hospitals and CHC's.

Also included are conference classics, such as the Health Care Disparities Collaborative update, which this year will showcase the new oral health component; FTCA/Risk Management; and the New Clinical Director Orientation.

Don't miss the opportunity to earn valuable CME units while networking and socializing with your colleagues!



New DRA Citizenship Requirements: What is the Community Health Centers Role?

Effective July 1st, 2006, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) requires that all persons applying for Medicaid must document their citizenship. The new documentation requirement is outlined in Section 6036 of the DRA and

is intended to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries are citizens without imposing undue burdens on them or the states. Basically, the new law stipulates that AHCCCS members and applicants who are United States citizens must provide additional proof of United States citizenship and identity when renewing or applying for AHCCCS Health Insurance, including the Arizona Long-Term Care System (ALTCS) and the KidsCare Program.



AHCCCS has been conducting community and provider briefings across the state to educate Medicaid beneficiaries and providers. AHCCCS has also created a useful fact sheet about the new

citizenship requirements which includes a list of the documents that are acceptable to prove citizenship and identity. The fact sheet is available in Spanish and English and is accessible on the **AHCCCS** website at:

www.ahcccs.state.az.us/Community/

Additional useful information can be found on the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid** website at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidEligibility/05_ProofofCitizenship.asp.

What does this mean for community health centers and other primary care providers? It means that anyone providing care to Medicaid beneficiaries should know and have access to the most updated information so they can help spread the word to patients and help educate patients about how to prepare for the new requirements. Community health centers can work closely with the AHCCCS office for information and to provide feedback of any issues that arise by e-mailing AHCCCS' Community Relations Department at community@azahcccs.gov.



Community Health Clinics Urged to Sign-Up for Electronic Information System



Time is running out for Arizona doctors to sign up for a free assistance program that will help them adopt an exciting new technology and transform their practices. This federally funded initiative, known as "Doctor's Office Quality — Information Technology," or simply DOQ-IT, is designed to help small-and medium-size primary care practices adopt electronic health-records systems (EHRs) that give doctors immediate access to comprehensive, critical information about their patients.

The use of EHRs can reduce dangerous medical errors, reduce practice inefficiencies, enhance communication and improve service to patients. Yet, only 64 physician practices in our state have enrolled so far to participate in the Arizona DOQ-IT program. The target date for final enrollment is July 24. The enrollment process includes signing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) confidentiality agreement and completing a practice readiness assessment. (Note: Rural Health Centers and Federally Qualified Health Centers must line-item bill laboratory services to Medicare to be eligible to participate in DOQ-IT.)

There is a nationwide push to revolutionize health care through the use of information technology. President Bush has called for every American to have access to EHRs by 2014. Gov. Napolitano has called for Arizonans to have widespread access to EHRs by 2010. Yet, despite all this encouragement, only 18 percent of physicians nationwide use EHRs. That's because significant barriers to EHR adoption exist. For one thing, most systems are expensive — initial costs can average as much as \$44,000 per physician — and insurers and the government are not offering to pick up the tab. Also, consumers worry about the privacy of their personal health information in an electronic system. Yet, health information experts claim that these systems actually offer greater opportunities for privacy because, unlike a paper chart, no one can look in an electronic chart without their activity being audited.

These barriers to adoption are not insurmountable. In the "Vendor Selection" stage of the DOQ-IT program, participants learn about low-cost EHRs that could prove to be a viable option for some CHCs. Also, effective June 2006, EHR products may undergo certification to show that they meet a variety of functional and interoperable standards, thus ensuring optimal privacy and security, as well as the ability to appropriately share data. Physicians in small-and medium-practices have a limited opportunity to participate. The Arizona DOQ-IT program is federally funded, and it's being managed by the Health Services Advisory Group, which is part of a national network of health care quality improvement organizations with great expertise in helping physicians adopt information technologies. For doctors who recognize the importance of computerizing their practices, but fear doing it on their own, the **Arizona DOQ-IT** program could be a great aide. Interested physicians can call (602) 308-7197 or go to www.azdoqit.org to sign-up.



Health-e-Arizona “Under Construction”



Health-e-Arizona has been “under construction” for several months now and is ready to be unveiled on July 17th, 2006. The online system which assists in enrolling and determining preliminary eligibility for medical assistance programs has been revamped in many ways...a new look, new user-friendly features, and a few more questions to determine preliminary eligibility for two more assistance programs—Emergency

Food Stamps and Cash Assistance (TANF).

Health-e-Arizona has a new look to it. With the new look, came several new user-friendly features for those individuals using the system and screening questions to determine eligibility for two additional programs.

New features include:

- A Link to Login to the AHCCCS Enrollment Verification system
- A New Search Feature
- Data Sharing – Asking the applicant if they give permission to share data with various agencies (i.e., AHCCCS, DES)
- Demographics – Asking more detailed questions (i.e. homeless, shelter, date moved to Arizona, and parent information.)
- Household Assets Information
- Willingness to Pay – Referring to the premium for healthcare coverage (KidsCare)
- The Health-e-Arizona application will now electronically submit for MED determinations
- Food Stamp Related Information
- Application Follow-Up Interview (Special date and time can be selected by the applicant in cases where applying for Food Stamps and TANF)
- Reconsider Referral – Final request to apply for one or more programs
- The Health-e-Arizona application now allows the applicant to make no selection of a health plan at the interview

All Health-e-Arizona users will be trained statewide to ensure understanding of the new user-friendly features. All community health centers and other users will be contacted and invited to trainings as they are scheduled in their regions. Training dates should be released shortly. All trainings will be provided by Outreach/Enrollment staff at AACHC and Health Care Connect, as well as El Rio Community Health Center, AHCCCS, and DES Representatives. For more information, please contact Kristina Johnson at (602) 288-7552.



4th Annual Crystal Awards Honored Arizona Individuals, Profit, and Non-Profit Organizations for Community Service *Public Recognized and Congratulated Those Making a Difference in Arizona*

Arizonans from across the state were honored for their commitment and dedication to improving Arizona health care by making a difference through creative and innovative problem solving, as A.T. Still University (ATSU) hosted its 4th Annual Crystal Awards on Friday, April 21st, 2006 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at The Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona.



Mrs. Claudia Welden, left, with her husband Jim Welden, Chief Executive Office of Mariposa Community Health Center, and Craig Phelps, D.O., FAOASM, right, Provost of A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona

ATSU-Mesa is comprised of the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, Arizona’s only dental school, and the Arizona School of Health Sciences. The Mesa campus was founded on serving the needs of the Arizona community, and the Crystal Awards established in 2002, recognized those who were doing the same.

Each of ATSU-Mesa’s programs: Athletic Training, Audiology, Dentistry, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant studies, selected honorees in their field. In addition, honorees were selected from the following areas: Individual, Corporate, Nonprofit, Nonprofit-Faith Based, and Public Agency. “A.T. Still University aspires to become a community resource for the community, health professionals, health information, and health professions educators,” said Craig Phelps, D.O., FAOASM, provost of A.T. Still University’s Mesa campus. “Hosting the Annual Crystal Awards supports that vision. It is an honor to have a chance to thank individuals and organizations who are practicing what we are educating our students to do.” Mariposa Community Health Center received the 2006 Crystal Award for Non-Profit Agency. Congratulations to Mariposa CHC for their exceptional work!

Clinica Adelante, Inc. *Elects New Chief Executive Officer*



The Board of Directors of Clinica Adelante, Inc. (CAI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Avein Saaty-Tafoya to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of CAI. Ms. Saaty-Tafoya will manage the day-to-day operations of CAI as well as plan and implement the systematic and coordinated delivery of comprehensive health care services in the Phoenix Metropolitan area and surrounding rural areas. She will also lead the development, implementation, and communication of growth strategies and processes to enable CAI to meet the health needs of the rapidly growing communities it serves. Ms. Saaty-Tafoya will also represent Clinica Adelante, Inc. within the community to officials in the public and private sectors as well as to advisory boards at the local, state, and national levels.

Avein Saaty-Tafoya has worked for over 17 years in the healthcare industry, with ten years experience with Federally Qualified Health Centers. She has held several key State Primary Care Association leadership roles including Director of Clinical Programs at the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers and at the Ohio Primary Care Association: Clinical Coordinator, Americorps Vista Project Director, and Immunization Specialist for the Together For Tots Immunization Initiative Partnership of the Bureau of Primary Health Care and Centers for Disease Control. We are delighted to have Avein Saaty-Tafoya as CEO of Clinica Adelante, as we all know her dedication to the mission of community health centers and access to health care for all people.