



THE KAISER COMMISSION ON
Medicaid and the Uninsured

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WELFARE, WORK AND HEALTH CARE: A Look at Transitions and Their Effect On Access to Care

When Congress passed national welfare reform legislation in 1996, Members recognized the importance of helping low-income families moving from cash assistance into the work force to maintain health coverage through the Medicaid program. Often the low-wage jobs filled by these new employees do not carry with them access to employer-sponsored health insurance. For this reason, the welfare reform law also extended the “transitional medical assistance” program (TMA) through September 2002. TMA allows families up to a year in Medicaid coverage even if they no longer meet the program’s financial eligibility limits. As Congress considers extending the welfare reform law, President Bush has requested that TMA be extended.

How important is maintaining coverage for low-income families? How well has TMA served low-income families as they have transitioned to paying jobs? Are there changes in the TMA program or other programs that would improve the chances of maintaining coverage in the welfare-to-work transition? What challenges have states faced in keeping insured the families of these transitional workers? What are the policy challenges in welfare reauthorization for persons with poor physical or mental health who receive cash assistance?

To address these and related questions, the Alliance for Health Reform and the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured are sponsoring a June 28 luncheon briefing. Panelists will be: **Diane Rowland**, director of the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured; **Ron Haskins**, senior White House advisor for welfare policy; **Laurie Rubiner**, policy director for the National Partnership for Women and Families; and **Paul Offner**, former DC Medicaid director now at Georgetown’s Institute for Health Care Policy and Research. **Ed Howard** of the Alliance will moderate the discussion.

WHEN: **Friday, June 28, 12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Lunch available at noon)**

WHERE: **Columbus Club, Union Station**

RSVP: *By 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26.* Fax the attached form to 202/789-2233, phone 202/789-2300 or register online at **www.allhealth.org**. *Seating is limited.*

Registration Form

**WELFARE, WORK AND HEALTH CARE:
A Look at Transitions and Their Effect
On Access to Care**

Friday, June 28
12:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Lunch available at noon)
Columbus Club, Union Station
Washington, DC

Name _____

Title _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone () _____ Fax () _____

E-mail address _____

FAX to Alliance for Health Reform at (202) 789-2233 no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26.
If you have any questions, please call (202) 789-2300.

ASK YOUR QUESTION IN ADVANCE

If you have a specific question, and want to allow our panelists the chance to provide a considered response, just write your question in the space below. Be sure to note if you want particular panelists to answer. We will address as many of these questions as time permits.
