MT. SINAI Educates PolicyMakers about Medicaid Expansion in Ohio

The landmark Supreme Court decision of summer 2012 left it up to the states to either “opt in” or “opt out” of Medicaid expansion, a major component of the Affordable Care Act that extends Medicaid coverage to individuals up to 138% of the Federal poverty level. Recognizing the potential benefits of Medicaid expansion, the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation contacted Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), a non-partisan coalition of faith communities and partner organizations in Cuyahoga County working together to build power for social justice, and helped create and fund what became the Northeast Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition. In addition, the Foundation co-funded the Ohio Medicaid Expansion Study, a partnership between the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO), the Ohio State University, Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), and the Urban Institute. Through efforts from the Mt. Sinai Foundation in bringing together key stakeholders, the Plain Dealer also endorsed Medicaid expansion.

Hundreds of thousands of Ohioans are uninsured. The Census Bureau estimated that in 2011, more than 1.5 million Ohioans, 13.7% of our total state population, had no health insurance coverage. Furthermore, the 2011 Census shows that nearly 600,000 Ohioans were uninsured and below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Based upon recent research projections, by 2022, 457,000 uninsured Ohioans below 138% FPL will gain Medicaid coverage if Ohio chooses to expand the program. This includes both the newly eligible and those who are currently eligible but not enrolled.

The cost of expanding Medicaid is a bargain for Ohio. The federal matching rate for expanding Medicaid to people with incomes of up to 138% FPL ($26,951 for a family of three), is much more favorable to the State than up to 100% of the State’s expansion cost until 2017, meaning Ohio will not have to expend any state funds to expand Medicaid for the first three years. Ohio can take advantage of new federal funds without spending any state money from 2014 to 2017, and the State’s cost of the expansion in 2020 and beyond will be only 10 cents on the dollar. Beginning in 2018 the State will pay a very small share but never more than ten percent.

Expansion is an economic investment. The Mt. Sinai-funded HPIO study estimates the State of Ohio could save $1.6 billion from 2014-2022 by expanding Medicaid. In addition, it is projected to increase state revenue by $2.7 billion through managed care taxes, general revenue and drug rebates. Putting these effects together, Medicaid expansion could result in a $1.8 billion fiscal gain for Ohio’s budget. The federal investment would buy health care from Ohio’s providers, who will in turn purchase other goods and services, much from other Ohio businesses. The net result is increased economic activity within the State’s borders, creating employment.

What is at risk if Ohio doesn’t act? An analysis by the American Academy of Actuaries found that if action is not taken to expand Medicaid, private health insurance premiums could increase, premiums in health exchanges could increase, and employers will be at risk of penalties for uninsured employees. Ohio hospitals are also at risk because more than $563 million in “disproportionate share” payments to hospitals that treat a large number of low-income patients will be reduced beginning in 2014.

The Medicaid expansion available under the ACA will provide health coverage to many of the 1.5 million uninsured Ohioans at only a fraction of the cost of the current Medicaid program. Failing to act will leave thousands of Ohio families with no health coverage, forcing them to seek care in an emergency room or wherever they can, with no way to pay the bill. Refusal to expand Medicaid will also cause private health insurance premiums to increase and create a Medicaid “donut hole,” as individuals below 100% FPL will neither qualify for Medicaid nor be eligible for subsidies or tax credits to purchase private health insurance.

Put simply, Medicaid expansion pays for itself and creates a positive state budget impact. Medicaid expansion generates several additional benefits to Ohioans that would not occur without expansion, including reducing the amount of uncompensated care by providing health coverage to the uninsured and potentially creating more than 27,000 new jobs for Ohio residents—providing a needed economic boost in tough times. (Continued on Page 2)
The Foundation held its first summit about preventing early childhood obesity in June 2012 with David L. Katz, MD, MPH, Yale University childhood obesity expert, as the keynote speaker for both the Summit and the Foundation’s 2012 Annual Meeting. Summit I was a success, attracting close to 300 people keenly interested in early childhood obesity prevention. Many practitioners in the Greater Cleveland community welcomed the opportunity to learn what others are doing and to share ideas. The response following Summit I was extremely positive with an eagerness to continue the dialogue.

Summit II was developed to continue the learning opportunities about early childhood obesity prevention in childcare settings. William Dietz, MD, PhD, former director of the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and expert on fitness, nutrition and obesity, was Summit II’s keynote speaker. Dr. Dietz also spoke at CWRU’s Town Hall of Cleveland Speaker Series on January 28, 2013. Summit II which focused on early childhood obesity prevention in early childcare settings attracted over 150 attendees who addressed issues around nutrition, physical activity, wellness policies to enhance quality and engagement, and insights from childcare directors. Mt. Sinai’s partners in Summit II included the Saint Luke’s Foundation, Cuyahoga County Invest In Children, CWRU School of Medicine’s Urban Health Initiative, and Starting Point, the region’s childcare and early education resource and referral agency.

The value of the two summits has been to bring people to the table to share successes and to explore possibilities for further action. The Foundation along with its partners has made a public commitment to address this challenging issue. The plan is to continue the dialogue, the work groups, and the learning opportunities.

Mt. Sinai President Mitchell Balk, with Saint Luke’s Foundation President Denise San Antonio Zeman.

(Above) Summit keynote speaker William Dietz, MD, PhD, with Cuyahoga County Health Commissioner Terry Allan, MPH.
JFC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND MT. SINAI FOUNDATION SHARE COMMON POLICY AGENDA

Foundation President Mitchell Balk was invited to give a presentation to the Jewish Federation of Cleveland’s Government Relations Committee, chaired by Leslie D. Dunn, on the Foundation’s work in health policy. Recognizing that government at all levels remains the single greatest financial contributor to the health of at-risk populations, including children, the elderly, and the poor, both the Foundation and the Federation have an opportunity to find common ground and address the needs of our community.

Mr. Balk shared the Foundation’s current involvement with Medicaid expansion in Ohio, as well as other opportunities that can impact those in the Jewish and general communities. Foundation Vice Chair Beth W. Brandon was recognized as the outgoing chair of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland’s Government Relations Committee and Life Director Leslie D. Dunn was welcomed as the new chair of this Federation committee.

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland and the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation are co-sponsoring a one-day mission to Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013. Co-chaired by JFC Director Dara Yanowitz, Foundation Directors Julie Raskind and Keith Libman, the mission will focus on domestic issues, including health care reform, Medicaid funding for local Jewish agencies, tax policy and hunger.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foundation Chair Marc C. Krantz was appointed chair of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority Board in February 2013.

Foundation Vice Chair Keith Libman is the recipient of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Cleveland’s 2013 Distinguished Leadership Award in recognition of his professional accomplishments, outstanding service to the community, and personal commitment to philanthropy.

Foundation Life Director Vic Gelb received the Newton D. Baker Distinguished Service Award from the Alumni Association of Case Western Reserve University for support of CWRU and other organizations, including serving in positions with the Playhouse Square Foundation, Bellefaire JCB and the Center for Health Affairs.

MedWish International was named a Mutual of America 2012 Community Partnership Award Winner for its Building Careers Volunteer Program, funded by The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation. This program provides assistance to people with special needs who are capable and desirous of working but find it difficult to find productive work opportunities. Through the Building Careers Volunteer Program, adults with special needs can gain greater independence, contribute to their communities and develop social and vocational skills. MedWish International was one of 10 nonprofit organizations across the U.S. honored for their work in partnership with public, private and other social sector organizations.
RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Grant Awards for December 2012 and March 2013

ACADEMIC MEDICINE & BIOSCIENCE

Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine
$100,000 to support and enhance craniofacial anomaly education

Cleveland Clinic
$75,000 for the Mathile and Morton J. Stone Chair and Professorship

The Gathering Place
$16,290 for helping children cope with a parent's serious illness – conference for professionals

Preterm Cleveland
$20,000 for the training program for medical residents and students

HEALTH OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Chabad Jewish Center of Solon
$1,050 for a defibrillator

The Cleveland Women's Orchestra
$1,500 for the Orchestra's Musical Concert Outreach Program to residents of long-term care facilities at Messiah Park

Fuchs Mizrachi School
$6,200 for the Health Intimacy and Sexuality Education Program

Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland (JFSA)
$125,000 for the JFSA/University Hospitals – Health Home Project

The Jewish Federations of North America
$20,000 planning grant for its long-term care financing collaborative

Ohio Jewish Communities
$300 for the 2013 Public Affairs Meetings

HEALTH OF THE URBAN COMMUNITY

Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland
$20,000 for the expansion of Triple Play Health Program at Citizens Leadership Academy

The Children's Museum of Cleveland
$20,000 planning grant to expand "Jump To It" to Cleveland-area school districts

Cleveland Foodbank, Inc.
$8,763 for the Healthy Cleveland Initiative: Summer Smoothie Program

Cleveland Metropolitan School District
$6,200 in matching funds for the Farm 2 School planning grant

Cuyahoga Health Access Partnership (CHAP)
$25,000 for start-up support

The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland
$50,000 for general support

The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland
Up to $61,000 over three years for the Electronic Health Record Project

HandsOn Northeast Ohio
$5,000 for the 2013 Homeless Stand Down

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
$30,000 for national accreditation through Council on Accreditation (COA)

May Dugan Center
$47,200 for Counseling and Community Services Department Expansion Project

Neighborhood Family Practice
$60,000 for medical and behavioral health services expansion at Detroit-Shoreway Health Center

Providence House, Inc.
$612 for support of the S.E.L.F. (Safety, Emotions, Loss and Future) psycho-educational group curriculum

Recovery Resources
$50,000 for the Health Home Transformation Project

Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County
$150,000 over two years for general support

Shoes and Clothes for Kids
$1,250 for the Heart & Sole Luncheon

Starting Point
$1,000 for healthy child care resource support

Stella Maris
$75,266 over eighteen months for integrated treatment for persons with co-occurring disorders

University Settlement
$10,000 for the Adult Wellness Program

West Side Catholic Center
$10,000 for the Oral Health Initiative

HEALTH POLICY

Case Western Reserve University Urban Health Initiative
$19,845 for early childhood obesity prevention planning assistance

The Center for Community Solutions (fiscal agent)
$50,000 for the AIDS Funding Collaborative

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
$50,000 over two years for the Health Improvement Partnership – Cuyahoga (HIP-C).

Health Policy Institute of Ohio
$20,000 for Ohio Medicaid Expansion Study

Health Policy Institute of Ohio
$450,000 over three years to improve the health and well-being of Ohioans through informed policy decisions

LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities & Potential)
$78,800 over two years for operating support for its public policy program.

Voices for Ohio’s Children
$6,250 for support of its CEO search

OTHER

Grantmakers In Aging
$2,000 annual membership dues

Health Research Alliance, Inc.
$2,500 annual membership dues
Contributions Received Between October 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013.

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation expresses its sincere appreciation to its friends and supporters for their many generous contributions. In addition to honoring or remembering loved ones, gifts to the various funds help to improve the health status of the Greater Cleveland community through the Foundation’s grantmaking program.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Marjorie & Jerome M. Besuner Cancer Fund
In Memory of Jerome M. Besuner, Gertrude H. Kirtos, Pearl R. Nebel and Celia Volsky
Marsha J. Besuner Klausner, Abby and Daniel
In Honor of David P. Dwoskin
Marsha J. Besuner Klausner

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation General Fund
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*of Blessed Memory

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation seeks to assist Greater Cleveland’s organizations and leaders to improve the health and well-being of the Jewish and general communities now and for generations to come.

For further information, contact the Foundation office at 216-421-5500 or visit the Foundation’s website at www.MtSinaiFoundation.org.
JEWISH HOSPITAL CONVERSION FOUNDATION CEOs MEET PRIOR TO GRANTMAKERS IN HEALTH CONFERENCE

The most recent of three meetings of the chief executives of Jewish hospital conversion foundations organized by Mt. Sinai President Mitchell Balk (third on right) was held in March 2013 in San Francisco prior to the Grantmakers In Health annual educational conference.

In attendance were the staff heads of the following organizations:

- Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, Newark
- Jewish Fund, Detroit
- Jewish Healthcare Foundation of Pittsburgh
- Jewish Hospital Foundation, Louisville
- The Menorah Legacy Foundation, Kansas City
- Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation, Cleveland
- Mount Zion Health Fund, San Francisco
- Rose Community Foundation, Denver

Previous meetings were held in 2003 and 2008.