

**Three for Thought**  
**Kris Calvin, AAP-CA CEO**  
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**1. Healthy Families Update: AAP-CA and coalition partners secure hundreds of millions in federal dollars via AB 1422**

AAP-CA was a leader in the successful enactment of AB 1422 last year. Supported by participating health plans, AB 1422 will draw down federal funds that more than offset a fee paid by those plans, and in so doing close a \$300,000 million gap in Healthy Families funding.

These funds were in jeopardy when the federal government issued an initial opinion that the way the fee was structured, i.e., on some, not all California managed care plans, might not meet federal requirements to access matching funds.

A rapid and forceful response by AAP-CA, coalition partners, and ultimately the Governor and his staff resulted in agreement by the federal government to delay a final decision on the issue for at least 18 months. During this time AB 1422 will operate as planned, and the funds will allow pediatricians to continue to serve the Healthy Families population.

Thanks to all of you who sent letters and made calls in support of AB 1422. We will keep you posted as other advocacy opportunities arise in support of Healthy Families. Unfortunately, with the Governor's budget set for release in the next few days in the context of a \$20 billion state deficit, such advocacy will likely be needed.

**2. AAP-CA makes progress in protection of California Children's Services (CCS)**

The state's "1115 Medicaid waiver" granted by the federal government and primarily related to hospital financing, expires August 31<sup>st</sup>. In preparation for a renewal that broadens the scope of the waiver to include possible redesign of the California Children's Services Program (CCS), the state solicited input from AAP-CA and others.

The state has been responsive to concerns raised by AAP-CA that any changes to CCS must build on the current strengths of the program. In particular, we have communicated that it is imperative that the state's current cost-cutting environment not generate harmful policy decisions, including a much-discussed elimination of county CCS program and roll-in of all CCS children into Medi-Cal managed care for all their services. In short, AAP-CA is urging the state to recognize that children in CCS and their families must not be asked to pay the price of California's budget crisis by losing services that matter most to them.

The first draft of the state concept paper for the waiver, issued in October, 2009, focused on the need to "incorporate the core concepts of organized delivery systems into the care received by children less than 21 years of age with special health care needs (i.e., CCS-eligible children), without mention of the critical positive elements of the CCS program that must be retained. In contrast, the December 2009 concept paper section on CCS leads with the following: "California will work with stakeholders to develop and test approaches to enhance the delivery of care to children with special health care needs, specifically oriented towards pediatric care. The approaches will be designed to preserve the strengths of the current CCS program, such as the access to qualified sub-specialists and tertiary care to treat conditions that require specialized care."

This important shift in framing lays the groundwork for continued AAP-CA advocacy to protect the core elements of the CCS program, while working with the state to seek improvements that support provider and enrollees in a more user-friendly, efficient system of care.

**YOUR ACTION MATTERS:** Please let government leaders know of your personal support for the CCS program, and that any changes must build on the program's strengths. You can communicate your concerns to the Governor at: Phone: 916-445-2841 Fax: 916-558-3160 (new number) or through his website via email at <http://gov.ca.gov/interact#email>, to DHCS Director David Maxwell-Jolly at Phone: 916-440-7400 Fax: 916-440-7404 or email at [david.maxwell-jolly@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:david.maxwell-jolly@dhcs.ca.gov) and to your legislator-- find their website and contact info at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>

### **3. Save the Date: AAP-CA Legislative Day, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010!**

AAP-CA is holding our Annual Legislative Day in Sacramento in conjunction with the California Medical Association Legislative Day on April 27, 2010 at the Sheraton Grand.

We will meet beginning at 9am with CMA, who always has a great line-up of speakers. Following that, I will offer an 11am AAP-CA legislative training, focused on bills and budget items of particular interest to pediatrics.

We rejoin CMA for their lunchtime speaker, and then head to the Capitol from 1-4pm for meetings with your legislators to advocate for children and the viability of pediatric practices.

Please join us! This is a wonderful opportunity to engage actively in advocacy with colleagues and District officers and staff in order to make a real difference for your patients and your practice.

To receive details and updates on the AAP-CA Legislative Day, email [office@aap-ca.org](mailto:office@aap-ca.org)

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For questions or comments on Three For Thought please contact Kris at [aapkris@mac.com](mailto:aapkris@mac.com).

Thanks for your interest in AAP-CA advocacy and activities!

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