

**2011 UCEDD TA Institute
UCEDD Region 3&4 Health Reform Breakout**

Faciitator: Deb Spitalnik

What is happening in states:

MS: Governor campaigning against. Have done nothing to move forward
FL: Huge fine from Medicaid and Medicare. South FL hospitals working together to improve healthcare
VA: Opposition to health care. Good news Governor can't be re-elected. Bad news another person, Attorney General, is pushing opposition
PA: Stakeholder group
WV: No Governor. Waiting to see who comes forward. Not much movement
Is there a better way to explain Medicaid and new health care laws to self advocates
AL: New Governor says healthcare act bad but wants health care affordable
GA: New Governor. No one has taken a real lead
DE: Governor progressively minded. Talk of streamlining – not so good. Not sure what will happen. Embrace opportunity health care affords. Look at it as opportunity
MD: Similar to DE. New person, Josh XXX, was specifically brought I to enforce healthcare. Josh very serious to make sure things are a success. One needs assessment across all agencies. Big discussion about health care – Josh has “cleaned house”. Discussions about partnership and impacts
Time to share money across States
Systems of care and Communities of care
DE: Rethinking what to re-bundle in waiver

National picture

DE: Finding resources from other States hard. And things change. Deposit information in one place
WV: People don't have access to resources in State. People aren't getting services they need. Only move forward by going to court. State has numerous people with disabilities – many reasons why. Resources are far apart. Some drive 3 hours for healthcare help.
MS: Poverty and disability
FL: How do we look at disability – not as a carve out, but part of larger group. Lots of money in healthcare act not related directly to healthcare. Look at where money goes. Workforce shortages in healthcare should be looked at and discussed. Impact of these shortages.
MD: When healthcare/disabilities impacts all – people pay attention
GA: Articulate a message. Tons of messages against and nothing for it
DC: A lot of people don't think about it until it touches their lives. Look at life course (MCHB doing)
FL: Message – make it personal
WV: What happens if all of these services are gone
MD: Government is community service
GA: Social commitment. Programs on campus pulled together, develop model (nutrition, etc) and gave to legislators to say “what if cut” and then look down road “cut P.E. could lead to increase in obesity”
Look at state budget cycles
MS: Anti-government is huge

DC: Anti-intellectual. Too many non news sources. Many people don't know facts because of those sources. Say same thing over and over becomes true. We are at a period of ugliness in our country right now. We need to call it like it is. We can't live in isolation (disability)

Separateness may also be fault of self advocates. SA voices need to be heard

Going forward:

- Political context in States
- Partnership are key – all areas/groups
- Information – this impacts all – how to get message out
- Life course
- Opportunity to engage young professionals. There is hope.