**Special Edition: Advocacy Opportunities**

Because the General Assembly is still on Spring Break, this week’s memo will describe advocacy opportunities we are taking to ensure that our legislative priorities are addressed before the end of this session, May 31.

**Illinois Human Services Commission Budget Briefing**
- Drilling down on the Illinois state budget and understanding the impact on human services and communities
- Who should attend: Providers, organizers, advocates, community residents, and foundations that care about Illinois’ Human Services system
- April 30, 10:30 – noon, Springfield, location TBD
- May 2, 10:30 – noon, Chicago, Bilandic Building Auditorium
- Contact for more information: Ashley Lepse, Ashley.Lepse@Illinois.gov

**Fair Tax Lobby Day**
- On April 29 A Better Illinois is hosting Citizen Lobby Day in Springfield
- This coalition is mobilizing Illinoisans for a rally, press conference, and one-on-one visits with legislators, urging them to support a Fair Tax. The bill is a constitutional amendment that would allow Illinois voters to decide on the November ballot if they want to switch to a Fair Tax. The Fair Tax allows for lower rates for lower incomes and higher rates for higher incomes, while it protects investments in key priorities such as education, health & human services, and public safety.

**Childhood Hunger Summit and Lobby Day**
- The 2014 Illinois Commission to End Hunger Summit on April 29 is an opportunity to learn about nutrition programs and policies, engaging with stakeholders from across the state to discuss hunger issues impacting children and their families.
- The Greater Chicago Food Depository and other partners are hosting a Childhood Hunger lobby day May 1 in Springfield
- Join representatives from food banks, food pantries, volunteers, donors, social service organizations, and other anti-hunger advocates to share stories and promote solutions to address childhood hunger.

**Raise Illinois Minimum Wage Town Halls**
- The Raise Illinois Coalition is hosting Town Halls across Illinois giving community members the opportunity to tell their local legislators why raising the minimum wage is important. The town halls are held in the evening at local churches, community halls, and neighborhood houses. For details about Town Halls in your neighborhood or to get more information see the attached schedule

**Medicaid 1115 Waiver**
- The Governor’s Office on Health Innovation and Transformation (GOHIT) released an announcement that they will repost the waiver application for public review for an additional 30 days while workgroups are organizing. This application to the federal government allows the State of Illinois to expand and transform services available to Medicaid recipients through experimental and innovative projects
- The GOHIT accepted 650 comments on the 1115 Waiver application and created an FAQ document.
- EverThrive Illinois submitted comments and will remain involved in the implementation process over the next few months
Four Prescription Drug Prior Authorization for Medicaid

- The general assembly convened a working group of legislators to address Medicaid bills being heard this session. Their goal is to assess Medicaid issues including restoration of adult dental and prior authorization for prescription drug limits.
- EverThrive IL and other stakeholders testified to this group on April 15, that the four prescription drug policy for children is a bad policy because it arbitrarily limits medical care for sick children who need these medications most. We recommended that the legislature work to eliminate this restriction.
- For more information about the impact of this policy, see the fact sheet developed by the stakeholders.

Program and Policy Committee Meeting

- The Program and Policy Committee second quarter meeting is May 8 at 10:00am at the EverThrive Illinois Office.
- To join, contact Annie Boesen.

Medicaid Dental Services for Pregnant Women

- In 2012 the SMART Act eliminated most dental services for adults in Illinois. However, On July 1, 2013 additional adult covered dental services were added by Public Act 98-0104. This legislation expanded the covered dental services to specific medical conditions including pregnancy. Maintaining good oral hygiene is critical to proper prenatal care. Many prenatal providers and dentists are unaware that pregnant women can receive dental care during pregnancy. Please share this DentaQuest newsletter with advocates, prenatal providers, and dentists you work with outlining available Medicaid Dental Services.
- The chart below shows the dental services available to Medicaid patients with certain conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Covered Dental Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals to be cleared for a</td>
<td>Exams, X-rays, teeth cleaning, fluoride application, fillings, crowns, root canals,</td>
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<tr>
<td>medical procedure such as</td>
<td>periodontal services (deep cleaning), dentures or partials, extractions, and sedation</td>
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<tr>
<td>transplant</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>Exams, X-rays, extractions, alveoloplasty (preparation work to support a denture), dentures or partials, and sedation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer treatment</td>
<td>Exams, X-rays, extractions, alveoloplasty (preparation work to support a denture), dentures or partials, and sedation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women</td>
<td>Exams, X-rays, teeth cleaning, fluoride application, fillings, crowns, root canals, periodontal services (deep cleaning), dentures or partials, extractions, and sedation</td>
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