

These are my comments.

Thank you for the invitation.

To whom it may concern:

Re: Coordinated Care program

As a parent to a child enrolled in Medicaid, I think Coordinated Care is a wonderful theory. I have several thoughts about this.

I would like to start by saying that I like how someone would be responsible to make sure you are aware of services your child will need. If you have a child that has complicated medical needs, I think you need a caseworker that is aware of the medical profession and can help you find doctor's, therapist, nurses, etc. who take your medical insurance and will fit the needs of the child. For example when my daughter was born she needed a nurse that could take an infant blood pressure. The hospital sent out a nursing staff that was incapable to do so. I also think it is great to have an advocate that you can call or talk to that can help you make important decision on the care of your child. On the flip side of this, I think it is necessary for someone to make sure parents are not wasting money of taxpayers going to doctors for stuff their children really don't need.

I also think there should be a penalty to parents who abuse the system. I know of a few people who would rather use the emergency room for their children's needs instead of going to a general doctor. I think if there is precautions to this (i.e. charge for all emergency room visits that are not deemed immediate). I think the same should apply to parents that do not keep up with their kids' doctor appointments and/or vaccinations. I also think participation in coordinated care should not be optional. If the parent of the child enrolled does not cooperate or hold up to their end of the care, I think their medical card should be subject to suspension.

I also find it very helpful to have an integrated health chart system. I go to one hospital that has a specialist clinic in it. I value the fact if my daughter is hospitalized that her chart is there, with all her records in it. It is also extremely helpful that all her labs and other medical notes are in that system so her specialist can pull up all reports to follow up on her care. That takes out the miscommunications that could happen. It also helps both me and the doctors/nurses know what is going on. When your child is hospitalized there is so much going on sometimes after the fact you have questions about a procedure or lab results and would like to talk to your doctor/nurse about it. I have also personally found it beneficial that they can schedule any follow up appointments with doctors in the building. I often find that my p.c.p. that we follow up with often does not either knows she was in the hospital or has just read the notes. Now granted, I also understand that my child is one in a hundred patients and at least he is reading the notes. I have a really good doctor for my child but I can see where some are not able to keep up.

Client Enrolled In Medicaid