



Center for Health Transformation E-Newsletters

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February 2007

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Newt Notes

It is only February, and the Center for Health Transformation is already on pace to experience what will be by far our most exciting year ever.

Earlier this month, Secretary Leavitt and HHS recognized CHT as the Georgia Community Leader for Value-Driven Healthcare. This was a great honor for the Center, and in particular, for all of those so actively involved in our Georgia project.

The Community Leader distinction is awarded to organizations which lead collaborative, coalition-building efforts to advance health transformation in the states. As one of only four organizations to have received this distinction, we are exceedingly grateful to the hard work of all our CHT members, without whom this would not have been possible.

During the same February 12 Georgia Tech event at which we received the Community Leader honor, CHT joined Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and a group of major employers to pledge our mutual support for Secretary Leavitt's national "Four

Cornerstones" initiative to improve healthcare quality, information and cost-effectiveness for employees and their families.



CHT Founder Newt Gingrich receives the Community Leader distinction on behalf of the Center (2/12/2007)

(Front row, L-R: Sec. Michael Leavitt and Newt Gingrich. Back row, L-R: Gov. Sonny Perdue; George Israel, Georgia Chamber of Commerce; Glenn Pearson, Georgia Hospital Association; Dennis White, Georgia Medical Care Foundation; Cynthia McCague, Coca-Cola Co.; Allen Hill, UPS; Sylvia Anderson, AT&T; and Marsha Burke, WellStar Health System)

Nancy Desmond and I were thrilled that so many leading companies and organizations have aligned to help accelerate the creation of a value-based health system, including Aetna, AT&T, UPS, Coca Cola, Piedmont Healthcare; WellStar Health System, the Georgia Hospital Association, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Medical Foundation, Georgia Tech and the Health Systems Institute. It would be difficult to overstate the significance of this critical mass of leaders becoming engaged in an initiative we believe has the potential to help save thousands of lives and millions of dollars.

We applaud the leadership exhibited by Secretary Leavitt and Governor Perdue in creating a system of better health and lower costs – a system focused on value-based competition. With the combined efforts of key players from the public and private sectors, including leadership from both the providers and employers, the momentum for health transformation is building at a much faster pace than politicians and the news media often seem to grasp.

We look forward to serving as the primary coalition-builder in Georgia to achieve Secretary Leavitt's "four cornerstones" of value-

driven healthcare: interoperable health information technology; transparency of price information; transparency of quality information; and the use of incentives to promote high-quality and cost-efficient healthcare.

With this latest designation, we will again broaden our efforts in Georgia. We already have made – and continue to make – remarkable strides in a number of ongoing initiatives, including our statewide Diabetes Physician Recognition project, our employer-led pay for performance project that covers nearly a million lives and our Healthy Columbus Diabetes and Obesity Project. Earlier this month we held a Georgia e-prescribing summit, at which time we launched a project to make Georgia the first state in the nation to have every prescription transmitted electronically from physician to pharmacy.

We invite you to visit the Georgia Project Page at www.healthtransformation.net to learn more about our Georgia Project. In addition, you will soon begin receiving the quarterly Georgia newsletter, which will be launched next month.

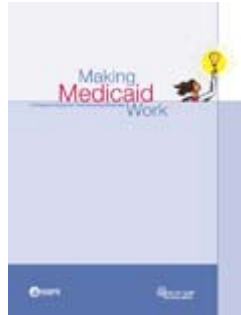
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Project Spotlight

Book Launch: “Making Medicaid Work”

The Center for Health Transformation and SHPS are pleased to announce the publication of a new book: Making Medicaid Work: A Practical Guide for Transforming Medicaid.

Co-authored by CHT and SHPS, the book includes insight from CHT Founder Newt Gingrich, SHPS CEO Rishabh Mehrotra, HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt and 11 state and federal Medicaid leaders.



This unique publication successfully tackles some of this decade's most passionate and controversial healthcare issues, offering a platform for constructive and honest public debate. The guide provides an innovative framework for transforming Medicaid into a 21st century intelligent System that provides high quality, coordinated care – at a lower cost.

CHT and SHPS propose a series of guiding principles as a framework for transforming Medicaid, calling for greater healthcare consumerism and care coordination and the adoption of 21st century technology such as electronic health records and health risk scores. The book illustrates that building a better Medicaid requires such essentials as the creation of proper incentives to promote better health outcomes, the development of an integrated delivery system and the addition of social empowerment tools.

Additional insights from leaders in state and federal government articulate real-world applications and point to areas for transformation. Book contributors include Tom Scully, Former Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Mitch Roob, Indiana, Secretary, Family and Social Services Administration; Joshua Slen, Vermont, Director, Office of Vermont Health Access, Agency of Human Services; Leslie Clement, Idaho, Division of Medicaid Administrator, Department of Health and Welfare; Pamela Hyde, New Mexico, Secretary, Human Services Department; Michael Deily, Utah, Former Director, Division of Health Care Financing, Utah Department of Health; Mark D. Birdwhistell, Kentucky, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Carmen Hooker Odom, North Carolina, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; Rhonda Medows, Georgia, Commissioner, Department of Community Health; Robert M. Kerr, South Carolina, Director, South Carolina Department of

Health and Human Services; and Alan Levine, Florida, Former Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration.

Speaker Gingrich expressed optimism that leaders could design a 21st century intelligent Medicaid system which achieves better health outcomes at lower costs. "Policymakers must not be bound by the Medicaid we've inherited," he said. "Instead, if we want a system that provides the best health services for low-income Americans at a sustainable cost for taxpayers, we must embrace the most cutting-edge technologies and care coordination techniques, combined with the right incentives."

Complimentary copies of the book, in both hardcopy and downloadable pdf format, are available by registering at www.shps.com/medicaid and www.healthtransformation.net.

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Member Update

The Center for Health Transformation would like to welcome our newest Premier member: [TelaDoc](#) and our newest Associate member: [Select Medical Corporation](#).

The Center for Health Transformation would also like to recognize the following members for renewing at the Premier level: [Georgia Hospital Association \(GHA\)](#), [Hospital Corporation of America \(HCA\)](#) and [Inland Northwest Health Services](#); and at the Associate level: [Enhanced Care Initiatives](#).

Please visit the [list of members](#) often to keep abreast of who is joining the Center or the "[Member News](#)" page to learn about the awards or honors won by our members.

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Transforming Example

Best Practices in Medicaid – South Carolina

(The following transforming example was derived from selected excerpts from the state of South Carolina's contribution to CHT's 'Best Practices in Medicaid' State Map. The following passage represents only a brief portion of [South Carolina's comprehensive Best Practices submission](#).)

Consumer-directed care demonstrations (include number of beneficiaries served now and in any expansion plans)

South Carolina was the first state to receive a 1915(c) Independence Plus waiver for the elderly and disabled. At conclusion of a pilot phase, the waiver was approved with an effective date of July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2006. This program is known as SC Choice and is now operational statewide with approximately 200 enrollees as of January 1, 2006. SC Choice provides consumers with greater options about the types of service provided, how the services are delivered and who provides them.

The CMS website, Promising Practices in Home and Community-Based Services featured SC Choice in "Streamlined Provider Agreement for Non-Traditional Medicaid Providers": www.cms.hhs.gov/promisingpractices.

For more information, visit the CHT website and view the Idaho "Best Practices in Medicaid" submission (accessible via the State Map on [CHT's homepage](#)).

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CHT in the News

Rebuilding Healthcare the Right Way

CHT Founder Newt Gingrich and Project Director David Merritt write an op-ed about transforming Louisiana's health system.

Gingrich Discusses Efforts to Rebuild, Transform Louisiana's

Healthcare System

Newt Gingrich delivers a speech at an Emageon-sponsored CHIME event during HIMSS07, the nation's largest health IT conference, being held at the New Orleans convention center. (*Media advisory; White paper: "Leading Innovations from the CHIME-CHT Transformational Leadership Award Applications"*)

Making Medicaid Work - A Practical Guide for Transforming Medicaid

This newly released book from CHT and SHPS explores solutions for transforming the Medicaid program and improving the lives of the Medicaid population. (*Press release; Order a complimentary copy in hardcopy or PDF format*)

Comparison Shop Hospitals with a Click

The Georgia Hospital Association's new website, www.gahospitalpricecheck.com, will encourage providers to deliver high-quality care at competitive prices, says CHT Project Director Wayne Oliver. (*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*)

Health IT Remains a Bipartisan Issue

CHT Project Director David Merritt offers insight into the prospective advancement of HIT legislation in the new Congress (*Government Health IT*)

CHT Designated as Community Leader for Value-Driven Healthcare by HHS

Secretary Michael Leavitt recognizes the Center for Health Transformation's coalition-building efforts to create value-driven healthcare in Georgia. (*CHT press release*)

Transforming Healthcare

The February 12th issue of *RT Image* features CHT Founder Newt Gingrich's January speech at Siemens in Malvern, PA. (*Cover story*)

CHT, Gov. Perdue & Leading GA Companies Sign Health Initiative

CHT Founder Newt Gingrich joins Gov. Perdue and major employers in pledging their support for HHS Sec. Leavitt's 'Four Cornerstones' of value-driven healthcare. (*HHS press release; GA Tech press*)

release; The Daily Report)

Connecting the Data

CHT hosts an e-prescribing summit in Atlanta, where Newt Gingrich challenges Georgia to be the first state in the U.S. to transmit every prescription electronically. (*CHT press release*)

Enough with CBO Secrecy

In commentary for Marketplace, CHT Founder Newt Gingrich discusses consequences of flaws in the Congressional Budget Office's scoring methods. (*Text; Audio*)

CHT Releases Health Policy Recommendations for 110th Congress

The Center for Health Transformation publishes a new white paper, "Health Action Agenda for the 110th Congress: Setting the Right Course to Transform Health." (*CHT press release; White paper*)

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Upcoming Events

CHT Member Meeting

Wednesday, March 7, 2007
San Diego, CA

Newt Gingrich to speak to 5 INC

Sunday, March 11, 2007
Pinehurst, NC

Newt Gingrich to speak to the Association of American Medical Colleges

Friday, March 30, 2007
Atlanta, GA

Newt Gingrich to speak to Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Florida

Thursday, April 12, 2007
Gainesville, FL

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