

ROUNDTABLE THEMES TO PROTECT & ADVANCE CHILDREN'S HEALTH COVERAGE

INTRODUCTION

On November 4, 2019, PolicyLab hosted "Equity, Affordability & Quality: A Roundtable on Medicaid & CHIP's Future for Youth." During this event, we assembled children's health experts with the goal of outlining effective, evidence-based health policy issues and solutions ripe for action and collaboration. We had a productive discussion, which resulted in several key themes on actions we must take to maintain equitable, high insurance rates among our nation's children, allowing them to be their healthiest selves.

GUIDANCE FOR POLICYMAKERS, RESEARCHERS & ADVOCATES

Protect public insurance programs. Research from PolicyLab has confirmed that more and more low- and middle-income working families are enrolling their children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Yet, at the same time that families are relying on these programs, Georgetown Center for Children and Families' latest children's coverage report shows the number of uninsured kids has gone up for the second year in a row. We are losing the historic coverage gains made for youth in recent years, so we must remove barriers to eligibility and enrollment in these programs that provide critical, comprehensive support for families.

Ensure kids are part of the conversation. Children and teens are often not considered or discussed in the ongoing health care reform debate in the United States. We must remind policymakers and decision-makers that youth are not just little adults—we need solutions that meet their unique needs and ensure access to high-quality care.

Address social determinants of health. If we want to ensure the long-term health of children and families, we must look beyond the doctor's office and hospital walls to where they live, work and play. Health systems and payers working within communities to implement proven methods that address social needs—such as home visiting programs and innovative solutions like home repairs for families who have a child with high-risk asthma—can go a long way in helping children thrive as they grow.

Use data and evidence to inform our approach. Leveraging the data at our disposal, while also identifying where there are gaps in information particularly about racial/ethnic minority youth, will allow us to understand and address health disparities in a more meaningful way and provide equitable care and programs that work for the families we serve.

EXPERT PANEL

- **Joan Alker**, Executive Director and Co-founder of the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University
- **Dr. Tyra Bryant-Stephens**, faculty member at PolicyLab and Medical Director of the Community Asthma Prevention Program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- **Dr. Doug Jacobs**, Chief Innovation Officer at the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
- **Kathy Ko Chin**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- **Dr. David Rubin**, Director of PolicyLab and Population Health Innovation at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

