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Resources

Equity of Care is the national collaborative effort of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the American Hospital Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Catholic Health Association of the United States, and National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems. Through this platform we have issued a call to action to eliminate health care disparities. Our goals are to increase the collection of race, ethnicity and language preference data; increase cultural competency training for clinicians and support staff; and increase diversity in governance and management.

Through free resources, shared best practices and national collaborative efforts, Equity of Care hopes to lead the health field on a clear path to eliminate disparities and ensure that local action can power national results. As part of our effort to provide resources and keep members apprised of the many issues affecting equity of care, we are pleased to present the monthly Equity of Care Newsletter below. We welcome your feedback and input on this resource – please contact us at info@equityofcare.org

1. New Resources Released by Kaiser Family Foundation on State Medicaid Expansion

The Kaiser Family Foundation’s Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured recently provided new resources on the recent Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion and explore questions that may arise for states as they look ahead to the implementation of the law in 2014.

- A Guide to the Supreme Court’s Decision on the ACA’s Medicaid Expansion
- Implementing the ACA’s Medicaid-Related Health Reform Provisions After the Supreme Court Decision, and a
- new brief that examines how states historically have responded to new opportunities to draw down federal funds to provide health coverage for low-income people.

Graders
Looking at fifth-graders at public schools in Birmingham, Alabama; Houston; and Los Angeles County the study examined a broad range of health-related measures. The study sought to broaden the understanding of preadolescents across a range of health-related behaviors, experiences and outcomes that may have lifelong implications for their health. The study found disparities across racial and ethnic groups, including obesity, vigorous exercise, witnessing of violence, seat-belt use, and self-reported health status and psychological and physical quality of life. MORE...

3. Ambiguity in Health Law Could Make Family Coverage Too Costly for Many
From New York Times
By Robert Pear
The debate over what is affordable health insurance as defined by the Affordable Care Act will impact who receives financial assistance and ultimately their coverage decisions. A recent interpretation by the Internal Revenue Service is at the center of this discussion. MORE...

4. California Hospitals Serving Large Minority Populations Were More Likely Than Others To Employ Ambulance Diversion
A recent study in Health Affairs examined ambulance diversion, a proxy measure for crowding, at 202 California hospitals. The study found that hospitals serving large minority populations were more likely to divert ambulances than were hospitals with a lower proportion of minorities, even when controlling for hospital ownership, emergency department capacity, and other hospital demographic and structural factors. MORE...

5. Report: State Policymakers' Guide for Advancing Health Equity through Health Reform Implementation
The National Academy for State Health Policy released a report that synthesizes the experiences of teams from seven states (Arkansas, Connecticut, Hawaii, Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, and Virginia) that participated in a learning collaborative to advance health equity using select Affordable Care Act and state policy levers. It highlights select policy levers that can advance health equity, opportunities for state and federal agency collaborations to
strenthen these efforts, and important lessons and considerations for advancing health equity.

6. How Five Leading Safety-Net Hospitals Are Preparing For the ACA
A recent Health Affairs article looked at the role that safety-net hospitals will play after the Affordable Care Act is implemented. It is estimated that they will need to care for more than twenty-three million people who will remain uninsured, while receiving less federal and state support for uncompensated care. The study looked at five leading safety-net hospitals and their preparations for reform. The work was conducted for the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Kaiser Family Foundation. MORE...

7. Issue brief: Addressing Women's Health Needs and Improving Birth Outcomes
The Commonwealth Fund released an issue brief with results from a peer-to-peer state Medicaid learning project that addressed women’s health needs and the improvement of birth outcomes. Given the high rates of maternal mortality, infant mortality, and preterm births, as well as continuing disparities in pregnancy outcomes, state Medicaid agencies have begun to focus on improving the quality and continuity of care delivered to women of childbearing age. As part of a peer-to-peer learning project, seven Medicaid agencies worked to develop the programs, policies, and infrastructures needed to identify and reduce women’s health risks either prior to or between pregnancies. MORE...

8. Women still lag in health care leadership positions
Although women compose 73% of medical and health service managers, a recent report from RockHealth, a digital startup incubator, found they make up only 4% of health care organization CEOs and 18% of hospital CEOs. RockHealth surveyed 100 women in health care and found that almost 50% of respondents cited self confidence as a top barrier for advancement in their careers. Other barriers cited include time constraints (45% of respondents), and the ability to connect with senior leadership (43%). To reduce barriers, the report suggests women seek out mentors, better showcase their successes, and attend events for women.
9. The Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse offers health research on low-income families
Launched in February of 2012, The Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse (SSRC) is an online resource center that offers a virtual portal of research on low-income families and an online hub for professional networking among researchers, policymakers and practitioners who serve these populations. The health section of the SSRC website provides information on the how health status among low-income individuals impact their achievement of higher levels of economic self-sufficiency. MORE...

10. Health system honored for helping employers reduce health disparities
From AHA News Now
The Department of Health and Human Services, White House Business Council and National Business Group on Health yesterday honored eight employers for their commitment to reducing health care disparities, including Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System in Baton Rouge, LA. The health system's Healthy Lives program provides wellness programming and services to employers in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. MORE...

Cindy Brach, author of “Ten Attributes of a Health Literate Health Care Organization,” from the Institute of Medicine, discusses health literacy – what it means and why it matters. Brach who is lead for health literacy and cultural competence at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has overseen the development of several health literacy tools including the Health Literacy Universal Precautions Toolkit. The podcast is part of series, Health Literacy Out Loud. MORE...

12. JAMA: Medicaid: Its Role Today and Under the ACA
The Journal of the American Medical Association recently released an information graphic through its Visualizing Health Policy platform on Medicaid. Using data from the Kaiser Family Foundation it looks at who is covered by Medicaid, its importance to Americans, its role under the Affordable Care Act, and many other aspects.
13. The Mongan Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy
Minority Faculty Development Program at Harvard Medical School
Applications are now being accepted for a 1-year, full-time fellowship at the Harvard Medical School, beginning July 2013. The program prepares physicians for leadership roles in transforming health care delivery systems and promoting health policies and practices that improve access to high performance health care for racial and ethnic minorities, economically disadvantaged groups, and other vulnerable populations. MORE...