

INSURE THE UNINSURED PROJECT
12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Sacramento Convention Center
February 6, 2008

Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Director Sandra Shewry was a featured speaker Wednesday at the 12th annual conference of the "Insure The Uninsured Project" (ITUP), held in Sacramento.

Focusing on this year's event theme, "From Talk to Action: Covering The Uninsured," Director Shewry spoke about "Federal-State Policies: Implications for State Health Care Reform." She discussed the importance of Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP - Healthy Families in California) as funding sources for comprehensive medical, dental and vision care to low-income, uninsured individuals and as key components of states' efforts to expand health coverage.

In addition, Director Shewry spoke about the need for state-federal partnership regarding health care reform efforts. She pointed to various federal regulation packages aimed at cost control that could drain critical funding from California's Medi-Cal program and undermine efforts at health care reform. Congress has taken steps to delay implementation of several of the regulation packages. Shewry encouraged the audience to become informed about proposed federal regulation changes and to ensure policy makers understand the impact of the changes.

Medicaid is one of the largest health programs in America and one of the most significant health programs administered by states. Medi-Cal serves nearly 6.6 million people in California. States have a huge stake in the future of Medicaid and SCHIP. Improving these programs will enhance the health of our most vulnerable populations. Establishing cooperative, productive partnerships between states and the federal government is a key component to increasing and improving health coverage for all.

ITUP, established in 1996, identifies, assists and promotes new approaches to expand health care and coverage for California's uninsured. The project focuses on developing common ground and establishing connections among interested and influential parties to bring about public and private health care reform.

To view Director Shewry's presentation in outline format, please click on [Federal-State Policies: Implications for State Health Care Reform](#) on the previous page.

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