

Alabama Medicaid RCOs

How did we get here? Where are we going?



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The Affordable Care Act of 2010

The problem:

- 40-something million uninsured Americans
- Soaring health care costs

A two-tiered solution:

- Expanded Medicaid for low-income adults
- Health Insurance Marketplace for moderate-income people



The Big Surprise of 2012

- U.S. Supreme Court makes Medicaid expansion optional
- Governor Bentley opts out for Alabama, citing “broken” Medicaid
- Gov. appoints commission to “fix” it



Commission recommendations

- Managed care (mainly nonprofit)
- Regional Care Organizations (RCOs) – provider-based, community-led
- Five Medicaid regions – each with one or more RCOs
- Exclude for now: long-term care (LTC), waivers and dental; review LTC 2015
- Advocacy win: Consumers need a formal role in RCO governance!

Regional Care Organization Districts
Effective October 1, 2013



Putting RCOs into law

January 2013 – Gov. Bentley accepts report

March 14th – Sen. Reed files RCO bill (SB 340)

April 25th – Amended SB 340 passes Senate, moves to House

May 7th – SB 340 passes House, governor signs

Final version strengthens consumer provisions:



- Creates Citizens' Advisory Committees and consumer seats on governing boards
- Authorizes Arise and DLCA to nominate consumer reps

Building something new

- First statutory consumer role in Medicaid governance
- RCOs won't work without community engagement
- Commission report and law omitted RCO “hub”
- ACA offers new incentives
- Consumer reps are key players in historic transformation



Alabama Community Health Partners

- Statewide team approach to consumer representation
- Arise and DLCA reps, plus regional advocacy partners
- Training and ongoing support



Thank you for being a strong community voice!



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