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Medicaid and the Implementation of Health Reform: Defining Issues and Challenges

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July 14, 2010

Which Medicaid roles are essential to national health reform?

- 1. Health insurance for low-income families**
- 2. Coverage for disabled people without Medicare**
- 3. Supplement to Medicare beneficiaries, including for long-term care**
- 4. Direct support for safety net providers**

What would low-income families say if they were invited to be in the room?

- **Medicaid income limits for adults are too low.**
- **The program still feels like welfare.**
 - **Eligibility is viewed categorically**
 - **Application and enrollment process is complex**
 - **Asset test is a real barrier (and there are no assets)**
 - **Difficult to renew coverage each year**
- **Many providers don't accept Medicaid.**
- **Care coordination is weak.**

What would disabled individuals say if they were invited to be in the room?

- **Medicaid’s “optional” services are not optional for the people who need them.**

- **A single benefit package has big advantages.**
 - **No need to coordinate wrap-around coverage**

- **Care can be expensive—not by choice, but because health care needs are often complex.**

What would dual Medicare—Medicaid beneficiaries say if they were invited to be in the room?

- **Medicare covers almost no long-term care.**
- **Medicare has a limited acute care benefit and requires significant cost-sharing.**
- **Medicaid and Medicare are organized as separate programs.**

What would safety net providers say if they were invited to be in the room?

- **Uncompensated care funding does not cover the full cost of caring for the uninsured.**
- **Even with expanded coverage, direct subsidy is essential to financing safety net service delivery.**
- **With expanded coverage, a greater share of the remaining uninsured will have immigration issues.**

Why is Medicaid a cornerstone of health reform's insurance coverage expansion?

- a) A robust policy discussion pointed to Medicaid as the best path forward.**
- b) Strengthening the program for very low-income individuals and families was a top political priority.**
- c) Splitting administrative responsibility between different levels of government guarantees success.**
- d) As affirmed by CBO, Medicaid is the least costly option.**

The New Vision for Medicaid

- **Federal-State Administration**
- **Enrollment**
- **Service Delivery and Reimbursement**
- **The Safety Net**

Crossing the Chasm: 2010 – 2014

- **Will state budget deficits, exacerbated by the expiration of federal ARRA funding, lead to the weakening of Medicaid between 2010 and 2014?**

- **Will further federal deficit reduction have an impact on Medicaid and the implementation of national health reform?**