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NEWS RELEASE

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**MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION (MACPAC)  
RELEASES ITS FIRST REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON MEDICAID AND CHIP**

*Inaugural MACPAC report provides key data on Medicaid and CHIP for the Congress*

As requested by the Congress, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) released its first [Report to the Congress on Medicaid and CHIP](#) on March 15, 2011.

MACPAC's inaugural report establishes the foundation for the Commission's role as a source of independent, data-driven analysis to assess how Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) function today and how they can be improved in the near term and in the future. This report lays the groundwork for how MACPAC will advise the Congress in achieving greater value in Medicaid and CHIP, while ensuring program accountability.

Medicaid and CHIP are complex, dynamic programs that in FY 2010 covered an estimated 76 million low-income people—including more than 30 million low-income children, more than 10 million low-income persons with disabilities, and 6 million low-income seniors—at a total federal and state cost of more than \$400 billion. The purpose of this report is to establish a solid approach for integrating data and policy analysis that will enable the Commission to address Medicaid and CHIP issues outlined in its statutory charge.

“Given the substantial role of Medicaid and CHIP in our health care system, we hope that this inaugural report will serve as a source of valuable information for the Congress and provide a foundation for the Commission's future work. MACPAC's March 2011 report reflects the Commission's commitment to providing thorough data and nonpartisan analysis to the Congress on Medicaid and CHIP,” said Diane Rowland, ScD, chair of the Commission.

The report provides important information about how Medicaid and CHIP operate. It outlines how Medicaid and CHIP fit into the larger context of the U.S. health care system and provides in-depth overviews of the two programs. The report also outlines how MACPAC will address key policy elements in its statutory charge, including Medicaid payment policies, access to care in Medicaid and CHIP, and the use of Medicaid and CHIP data for policy analysis and program accountability.

The Commission made data development its first priority with the Medicaid and CHIP Program Statistics (MACStats) section of the report, which is a compilation of key data on enrollment, program characteristics, and expenditures. “As we continue to develop our data capacity, MACStats



will be the cornerstone of our original analytic work,” said Lu Zawistowich, ScD, executive director, MACPAC.

Throughout MACPAC’s work, the Commission has actively engaged state officials and stakeholders to review policy analyses and to inform Commission deliberations. “The joint federal-state structure of Medicaid and CHIP makes it essential for the Commission to consult with states to take into account their perspectives and insights on emerging policy issues. This will assure that we develop the most rigorous and practical policy analysis for the Congress,” said David Sundwall, MD, vice chair, MACPAC.

MACPAC’s 17 Commissioners were appointed by the U.S. Comptroller General in December 2009, and the Commission received an appropriation in March 2010. The first organizational meeting of the Commission was held in July 2010, and Lu Zawistowich, ScD was appointed as executive director in August. In September, the Commission convened its first public meeting and subsequently facilitated four additional public meetings between October 2010 and February 2011. In these public deliberations, the Commission established priorities for its analytic work on Medicaid and CHIP, reviewed the content for this report, and sought public comment on issues. Through this process, the Commission directed the work that culminated in the completion of this first report.

**The MACPAC *Report to the Congress on Medicaid and CHIP* can be downloaded from MACPAC’s website at [www.macpac.gov](http://www.macpac.gov).**

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*MACPAC is the first nonpartisan Congressional support agency that is solely focused on issues affecting Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). MACPAC was established by the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009 and funded through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) in March 2010. The Commission’s statutory charge requires that the Commission review and advise the Congress on federal and state Medicaid and CHIP policies on issues involving payment; access; eligibility; enrollment and retention, coverage; quality; and interactions of Medicaid and CHIP with Medicare and other components of the U.S. health care delivery system.*