

State's Medicaid system needs retooling

Louisiana's Medicaid program serves more than 25 percent of our state's residents, delivering essential health-care services from our state's best health care providers. But today, the Medicaid system itself is broken. It doesn't focus on primary care and results in emergency room care too often. We can do better for our loved ones.

Children and Families Action Network supports Secretary Greenstein and the Department of Health and Hospitals in their efforts to reform Medicaid and CHIP into a system that manages the care of recipients. Our organization has actively worked one-on-one with families across Southwest Louisiana for years, so we know change is needed.

More can be done to improve access to healthcare, and we feel that the Department's Coordinated Care Networks (CCNs) plan is critical in ensuring access to health care for our most vulnerable residents. Despite investing nearly \$7 billion in taxpayer funds annually toward medical care, our state's health outcomes continue to be among the worst in the nation.

Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Bruce D. Greenstein is making an effort to visit every corner of our state to give providers and consumers a voice in the process and we look forward to the dialogue about improving our health care system over the next few weeks.

JULIO GALAN

Executive Director

*Children and Families Action
Network*

Lake Charles

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