

New Muskie Study Reveals Holes in Rx Safety Net

Some disabled and elderly citizens may face more limited drug coverage under Medicare Part D, the federal government's new prescription drug program, than they previously received through state programs, according to a report released this month by the Muskie School.

Prior to Part D, states were providing safety net drug coverage to poor, elderly and disabled persons that was often more comprehensive and less costly than the new federal program. States may now elect to supplement the difference between Part D and state programs, but must do so with state dollars.

The report details a survey of state programs, which indicates that most states—already required to help subsidize Part D for those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid—do not plan to make up for the differences in coverage for this population. Other state programs that serve the near-poor, particularly those that are ineligible for any federal subsidies, are trying to retain coverage.

"Many states are acting in good faith to hold their enrollees harmless from reduced coverage under Part D," said Kimberley Fox, senior policy analyst at the Muskie School, "but only some are intending to fill the gaps in coverage for the poorest residents. Model state interventions are worthy of discussion and debate to ensure that the poorest Medicare beneficiaries are not worse off under Part D."

"Steps need to be taken to protect the disabled, elderly and very poor from this structural defect in the system," said Bill Foster, interim dean of the Muskie School. "This report helps us understand what has happened and look at ways to fix the problem."

The complete report by Fox and Linda Schofield, Schofield and Associates Consulting, is available at <http://www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/Publications/ihp/PartDStateSafetyNet.pdf>. For more information, contact Kimberley Fox at kfox@usm.maine.edu or (207) 780-4950.

Faculty Conduct Economic Development Summit in Northern Maine

As paper mills close and young people depart, an urgent question on the mind of policymakers in Northern Maine is the region's economic future. To address the issue, citizens and officials from the Katahdin region, including Millinockett, East Millinockett, Medway, and Woodville, recently asked the Muskie School to organize a day-long summit to identify the potential for a shared vision for economic development.

"We brought together, for the first time, citizens from across the region, to help them better understand their prospects and possibilities, and to craft a shared vision and action steps to grow the regional economy," said Muskie Professor Richard Barringer, summit organizer and moderator. "A strong sense of shared regional purpose and action are critical to restoring Northern Maine's economic vitality."

The summit began with economic development experts, including Professor Barringer, State Economist Kate Reilly, Professor David Vail of Bowdoin

Professor Jack Kartez addresses participants at the Katahdin Summit with Professor Richard Barringer looking on.



College, Dr. Lloyd Irland of the Irland Group, and Dr. Chuck Lawton of Planning Decisions, Inc., who provided insights into economic trends and recent strategies at the local, state, and national levels. In the afternoon, Muskie Professor Jack Kartez facilitated a session, where participants in small working groups developed consensus on ideas and action steps.

In the end, several goals were agreed upon, including supporting manufacturing, service-oriented businesses and tourism equally and marketing the Katahdin region and adjoining areas north as the snowmobiling

continued

Upcoming Events

Mon Apr 24

Policy Soundings

Maine's Gubernatorial Candidates: Plans for State's Economic Health

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Marriott at Sable Oaks,
South Portland

Tue May 2

Muskie Policy Forum

Giving Up Control ... or Taking It: Self-Governance in Maine

Dr. Mark Lapping
USM Distinguished Professor,
USM Muskie School

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Special Events Room, 7th Floor
USM Glickman Family Library

Wed May 10

**Muskie School
Graduation Party**

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Special Events Room, 7th Floor
USM Glickman Family Library

Sat May 13

Commencement

9:00 a.m.
Cumberland County
Civic Center



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Summit continued

capital and promoting all-terrain vehicle offerings. As a follow-up to the summit, participants signed up to work on action committees to address each goal.

"The turn-out, energy and commitment of those who participated was impressive," said Kartez. "The journey to a brighter Katahdin economic future is underway."

Muskie School Appoints Muskie Policy Fellow

Last month, Muskie Interim Dean Bill Foster appointed Barbara Leonard, the former director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Community Health, to a one-year term as a Muskie Policy Fellow. The Fellowship is an unpaid position designed to promote greater collaboration between the School and policymakers and practitioners.

"In the coming months, we look forward to developing opportunities to take advantage of Barbara's expertise," said Foster. "She will be a key contributor to the School's academic and scholarly contribution to the public health field." Leonard holds a Master's in Public Health from Yale University.

Beginning March 13, Leonard will work from the School's Institute for Public Sector Innovation in Augusta every other week. On alternate weeks, Leonard will be located at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Princeton office, where she is working with the Foundation on public health issues. Leonard can be reached at (207) 626-5284 or bleonard@usm.maine.edu.

New Director of Student Affairs Joins Muskie Staff

The Muskie School has welcomed Susan Moore as the new Director of Student Affairs (DSA). Moore has an extensive background in higher education and student affairs, having worked for such institutions as Bowdoin College, Colby College and the University of New Hampshire. "Susan's skills and enthusiasm for working with students to maximize their learning experiences are a welcome addition to the School," said Sondra Bogdonoff, Director of Planning and Development and chair of the DSA search committee. Moore holds a Master of Science in College Student Development and Counseling from Northeastern University. She can be reached at (207) 780-4864 or smoore@usm.maine.edu.

Save the Date: Garden Party Honoring Cathy Baron

On June 21st, the Muskie School will host the First Annual Muskie School Garden Party from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Stone House Conference Center in Freeport to honor the memory of Cathy Baron, a long-time Muskie School employee, and support an endowment fund in her name. The fund will provide financial awards to Muskie School classified and entry-level professional staff for professional development. For more information about the event, contact Sue Ward-Diorio, Development Officer, at (207) 228-8164 or sdiorio@usm.maine.edu.

Muskie Students, Staff and Alumni: Sign Up for a Free Teleconference on Child Welfare!

Every year, the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement, housed at the Muskie School's Cutler Institute for Child and Family Policy, hosts a series of free teleconferences to facilitate information sharing and to hear from experts on topics critical to the management of child welfare agencies.

The 2006 Spring Teleconference Series includes:

April 13 • 2:30 p.m. EST

Keeping Children Safe:

Strategies to Reduce Recurrence of Maltreatment

April 25 • May 4 • May 25 • 2:30 p.m. EST

Solution-Focused Practice (in 3 parts)

June 6, 2006 • 2:30 p.m. EST

Performance-Based Contracts: Making Deals with Providers

Students, staff and alumni of the Muskie School are encouraged to participate. For more information, or to register online, go to www.ncroi.org. Registration is free, except for phone charges.

Muskie Alumni Association Hosts Career Panel

On Wednesday, March 15, students, alumni, faculty, staff and prospective students gathered in the USM Abromson Center for a reception and program sponsored by the Muskie Alumni Association entitled "Careers that Matter: What Can You Do with a Muskie School Degree?." After introductions by Interim Dean Bill Foster and Patrick Norton, association president, three Muskie alumni spoke about their career paths and offered advice on pursuing careers in public service. Olga Gross, Bill Needleman, and Dan Stevenson represented the Health Policy and Management program, the Community Planning and Development program and the Public Policy and Management program, respectively.



Muskie alumni Olga Gross, Bill Needleman and Dan Stevenson (L to R)



Muskie students Susan Beane and Gloria Ramon (L to R)