The 4 Priorities of HHS Secretary Alex Azar for the Arizona Rural Health Conference 2019
Ed Heidig, Director, HHS Region IX

“Working to Achieve Health Equity”
Region IX
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Region IX
The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Divisions

- Administration for Children and Families
- Administration for Community Living
- Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
- Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Food and Drug Administration
- Health Resources Services Administration
- Indian Health Service
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health
- Office of Civil Rights
- Office of the Inspector General
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
• **Goal 1:** Prevent & Treat Opioid Abuse
• **Goal 2:** Reduce Prescription Drug Prices
• **Goal 3:** Increase Accessibility & Affordability of Health Insurance
• **Goal 4:** Transform Medicare to a Value Based Program focused on Patients
• **All Goals Contain:** *Improve Rural Health Care*
• **New:** Reduce New HIV/AIDS Infections by 90% by 2030
The Opioid Epidemic
The Opioid Epidemic in Context


Source: CDC/NCHS
The Opioid Epidemic in Context

Source: CDC/NVSS
Synthetic opioid deaths closely linked to illicit fentanyl
Risk Factors for Heroin Misuse

3 out of 4 people who used heroin in the past year misused opioids first.

7 out of 10 people who used heroin in the past year also misused opioids in the past year.

Nonmedical use of Rx Opioids: A significant risk factor for heroin use.

Source: Chris Jones/SAMHSA
### The National Strategy

#### HHS 5-POINT STRATEGY TO COMBAT THE OPIOIDS CRISIS

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<td><strong>Better</strong> addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services</td>
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<td><strong>Better</strong> pain management</td>
<td><strong>Better</strong> targeting of overdose reversing drugs</td>
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Opioid Investment in Health Workforce

• **FY 2018:** HRSA awarded $18.5 million for behavioral health workforce development

• **In FY 2019, HRSA plans to award:**
  – $105M for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
    • Up to $50M for Rural Communities Opioids Response Program.
  – $143M to continue support for behavioral health workforce development.
**Increasing Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

*Definition of MAT providers expanded to include physician assistances, certified nurse practitioners in 2017*

Source: Uniform Data System (UDS) - Table Other Data Elements 2017. UDS 2016 Health Information Technology (HIT) Information

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**Patients Receiving MAT**
- 2016: 39,375
- 2017: 64,597

**Providers Eligible to Prescribe MAT**
- 2016: 1,700
- 2017: 2,973

**Health Centers Providing MAT**
- 2016: 376
- 2017: 472

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*Eligible to*
Addressing Prescription Drug Prices
Highlights of the Blueprint

- Approval of Record Number Generics
- Import Lower Cost Drugs
- Prohibited Gag Clauses
- Increased Transparency
Increasing Accessibility & Affordability of Health Insurance
Expanded Options for Consumers

- Short Term Limited Duration Insurance Options
  - Can be renewed up to 3 years
  - Are not required to be “qualified health plans” as on Marketplaces

- Association Health Plans
  - Sole Proprietorship
  - Geographic or Industry
- Health Reimbursement Arrangements
  - Allows employers to use pre-tax dollars to subsidize purchase of insurance in the individual market
  - Final rules take effect on or after January 1, 2020
Paying for Value not Volume
Empowering Patients

MyHealthEData Initiative
- Putting consumer data back in consumers hands, and take it wherever you go

Blue Button 2.0
- 1400 app developers building user-friendly apps for patients to take their records, understand them, and share them

Updated Meaningful Use Program
- Focus on interoperability of medical records to transfer seamlessly between healthcare systems

Increase transparency of health care costs
Focus on Results

• Value-Based Payment Models
• Public scorecards for Medicaid & CHIP
• “Meaningful Measures” Initiative
Unleashing Innovation

eMedicare App
Telehealth

Active Programs

- Telehealth Network Grant Program (TNGP)
- Substance Abuse Treatment Telehealth Network Grant Program (SAT TNGP)
- Evidence-Based Tele-Behavioral Health Network Program (EB THNP)
- Telehealth Resource Center Program (TRC)
- Telehealth Centers of Excellence (COE)
- Flex Rural Veterans Health Access Program (RVHAP)
- Licensure Portability Grant Program (LPGP)
- Telehealth Focused Rural Health Research Center Cooperative Agreement
Increasing Access through Telehealth

IN FY2017:
SAVED PATIENTS NEARLY 1.6 MILLION MILES
in travel, by providing telehealth services – primary care closer to home

600
OF THE
1,373
health centers provided services using telehealth technology (44%)

315
PROVIDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES | 53%
140
USED TELEHEALTH TECHNOLOGY FOR REASONS NOT LISTED | 23%
125
PROVIDED PRIMARY CARE SERVICES | 21%
147
MANAGED PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS | 25%
164
PROVIDED SPECIALTY CARE SERVICES | 27%
37
PROVIDED ORAL HEALTH SERVICES | 6%

2017 UDS data
Increasing Access through Telehealth

TelehealthResourceCenters.org

TRC's have a mission to serve as a focal point for advancing the effective use of telehealth and support access to telehealth services in rural and underserved communities.
The HIV/AIDS Initiative
Understanding the Goal

GOAL:

75% reduction in new HIV infections in 5 years
and at least 90% reduction in 10 years.

www.hiv.gov
Understanding How This Affects The Region

• **Arizona**: Maricopa

• **California**: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernadino, San Diego, San Francisco

• **Nevada**: Clark
Ending the HIV Epidemic: Health Center Program

- Nearly 2 million HIV tests conducted annually nationally

- More than 165,000 patients with HIV receive medical care services at health centers, including many sites co-funded by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

- More than 600 health centers purchase Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) through the 340B Program

- FY 2020: $50 million to support increased outreach, testing, care coordination, and HIV prevention services, including PrEP, in targeted counties/cities and States.
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