



ACNM Policy Update

Tuesday, October 11, 2016

Federal Issues

- 1. New Report: Number of Women in Need of Publicly Funded Family Planning Services Increased by One Million between 2010 and 2014**
- 2. Update on Veterans Administration Proposed Rule for APRN Practice**
- 3. Webinar Recording Available: Pregnancy and Oral Health in the ACA Era**

State Issues

- 1. Ohio Senate Passes Infant Mortality Bill**
 - 2. Midwives Can Change the World: A Talk by Lisa Rich, Yale University SNM**
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Federal Issues

1. New Report: Number of Women in Need of Publicly Funded Family Planning Services Increased by One Million between 2010 and 2014

According to a new [report](#) from the Guttmacher Institute, an estimated 20.2 million U.S. women were in need of publicly funded family planning services, an increase of 5% or one million women since 2010. The report identified at-need women as individuals who were sexually active, able to conceive and not trying to become pregnant, and were either adults with a family income below 250% of the federal poverty level or were younger than 20 years of age. The report found that the increase in needed services was disproportionately concentrated among poor and low-income women.

2. Update on Veterans Administration Proposed Rule for APRN Practice

In late July, the comment period closed on a proposed regulation from the Veterans Health Administration that physician supervision not be required for APRNs working in VA facilities. ACNM submitted comments in support of the rule, and over 1,100 ACNM members responded to an Action Alert to submit individual comments. The Hill [reported](#) that the public comment period resulted in record-breaking 174,411 submitted comments, nearly double the previous record of 92,377 comments for a rule proposed by the U.S. Copyright Office.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has received the rule as of September 28 and now has 90 days to either publish a final rule in the Federal Register for implementation or return for amendment. The 90-day period extends until December 29, 2016.

3. Webinar Recording Available: Pregnancy and Oral Health in the ACA Era

The NIHCM Foundation and AMCHP recently hosted a webinar exploring strategies to connect women to dental coverage and care during pregnancy, highlighting examples of how states and health plans are integrating screenings and referrals into prenatal care and producing educational campaigns on the importance of dental care during pregnancy. A [recording](#) of the event is now available.

State Issues

1. Ohio Senate Passes Infant Mortality Bill

The Ohio Senate passed a bill that aims to decrease the state's high infant mortality rate by improving data access and reporting and by making sure providers are using only the best, evidence-based practices. [Senate Bill 332](#) also attempts to address some of the complex social contributors to infant mortality in Ohio by creating a community group to review relevant state policies and programs and by requiring state agencies to include pregnancy as a priority in housing and emergency shelter programs. ([Click here](#) to read more about the bill from the Cleveland Plain-Dealer.)

2. Midwives Can Change the World: A Talk by Lisa Rich, Yale University SNM

Are you in need of a little inspiration as we gear up for the opening of state legislative sessions in the next few months? Lisa Rich, a student nurse-midwife at Yale University and 2015 Tillman Scholar, recently gave a [powerful talk](#) as part of the [Pat Tillman Foundation's](#) inaugural Make Your Mark series on how midwives can change the world that will, without a doubt, reinvigorate your commitment to policy efforts as we collectively seek to make midwifery care accessible to all women.

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If you have questions about ACNM Legislative activities, please contact Cara Kinzelman, ACNM's Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs at ckinzelman@acnm.org or 240-485-1841.

Want to take action or get involved? Contact ACNM's [Government Affairs Committee](#).

Don't have the time or energy to get involved, but still want to contribute? Support the [Midwives-PAC](#).
