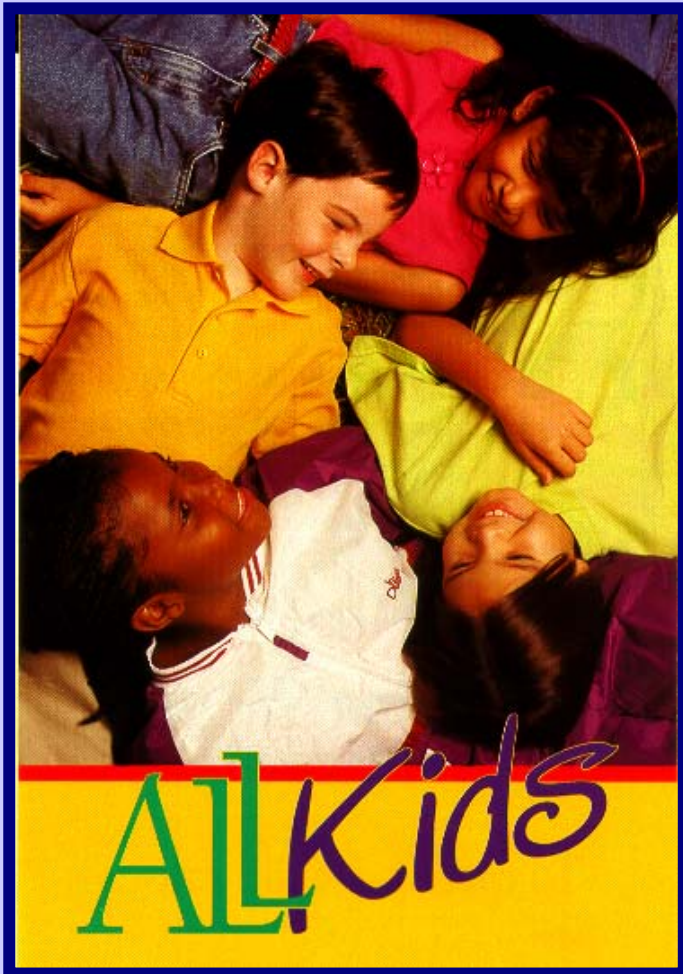


# The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) as a "Best Practice Model"



Gayle Lees Sandlin, Director  
Children's Health Insurance Program  
Alabama Department of Public  
Health

October 27, 2005



# Where did SCHIP Come From?

Balanced Budget Act 1997

Purpose - to provide coverage to decrease the large number of uninsured children

# Basic Premises of SCHIP

- Designed to be different from Medicaid
  - Allows states to model coverage on private insurance
  - Not an entitlement program
  - Does not have linkage to the welfare system

# Designed to Give State Flexibility

## Three Options:

- Expand Medicaid
- Create a separate child health program
- Use a combination of the above
  - States that expand Medicaid follow all Medicaid rules, including Medicaid program integrity rules


# Differences between SCHIP and Medicaid

## SCHIP

- Capped program
- Statute limits administrative costs to 10% of benefit costs
- Allowed to provide 12 months continuous eligibility for children

## Medicaid

- Open-ended entitlement programs
- Not limited in how much can be claimed for administrative costs
- Encourages states to adopt 12 months continuous eligibility to prevent frequent interruptions in health coverage



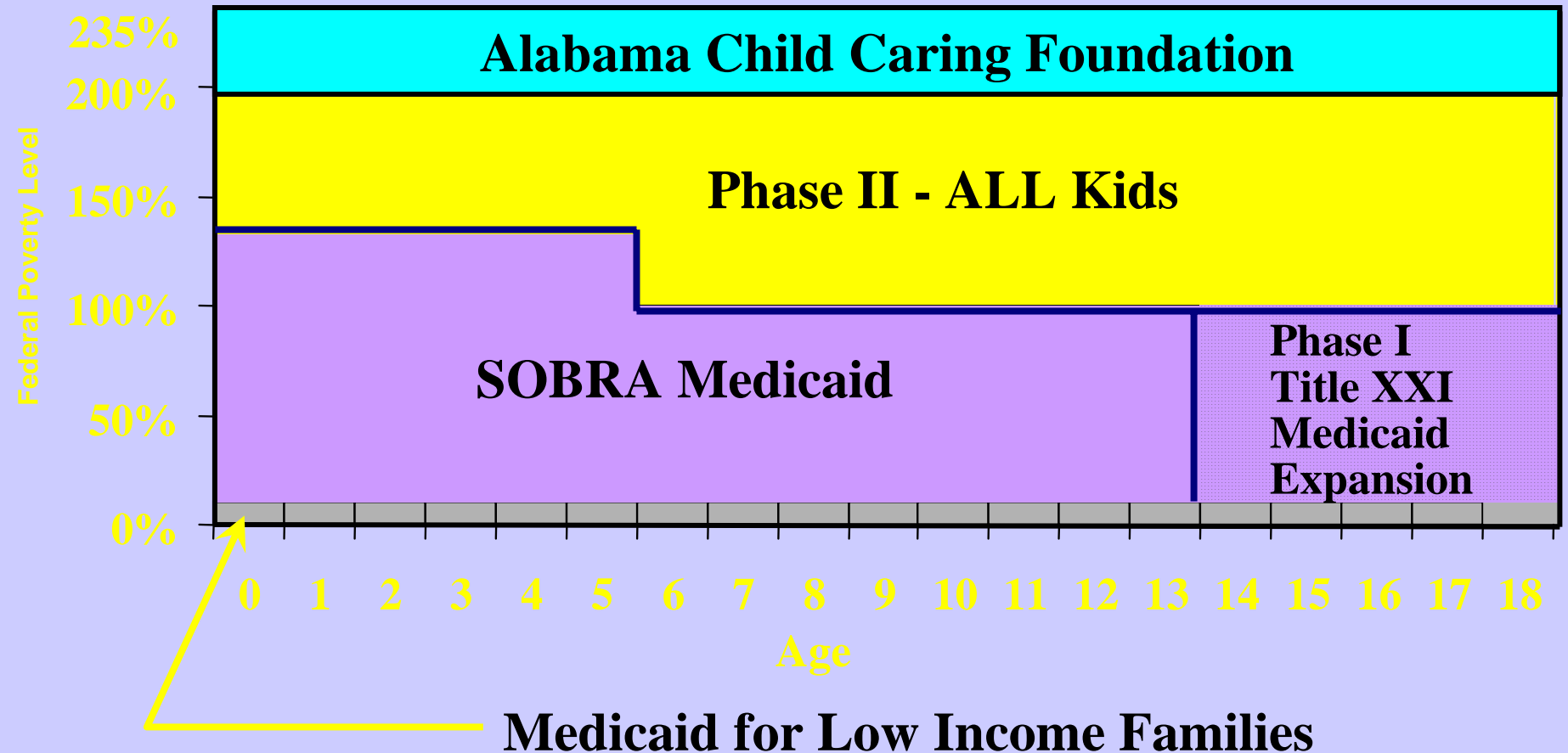
**“Devolution” - give states the ability to design a program that best meets the needs of the children while fitting with each state’s environment for:**

- **Political climate**
- **Insurance market**
- **Health care provider system**
- **Appropriate agency to administer**
- **Eligibility criteria that “fits” the demographics of the State**

# States were encouraged to “outreach” and find uninsured children and facilitate enrollment in appropriate program

- Joint application
- Find all uninsured children
- “Seamless” and “family friendly” enrollment and referral processes
- “Destigmatize” publicly funded insurance
- Procedures to keep children insured
  - 12 months continuous coverage
  - Helpful renewal process

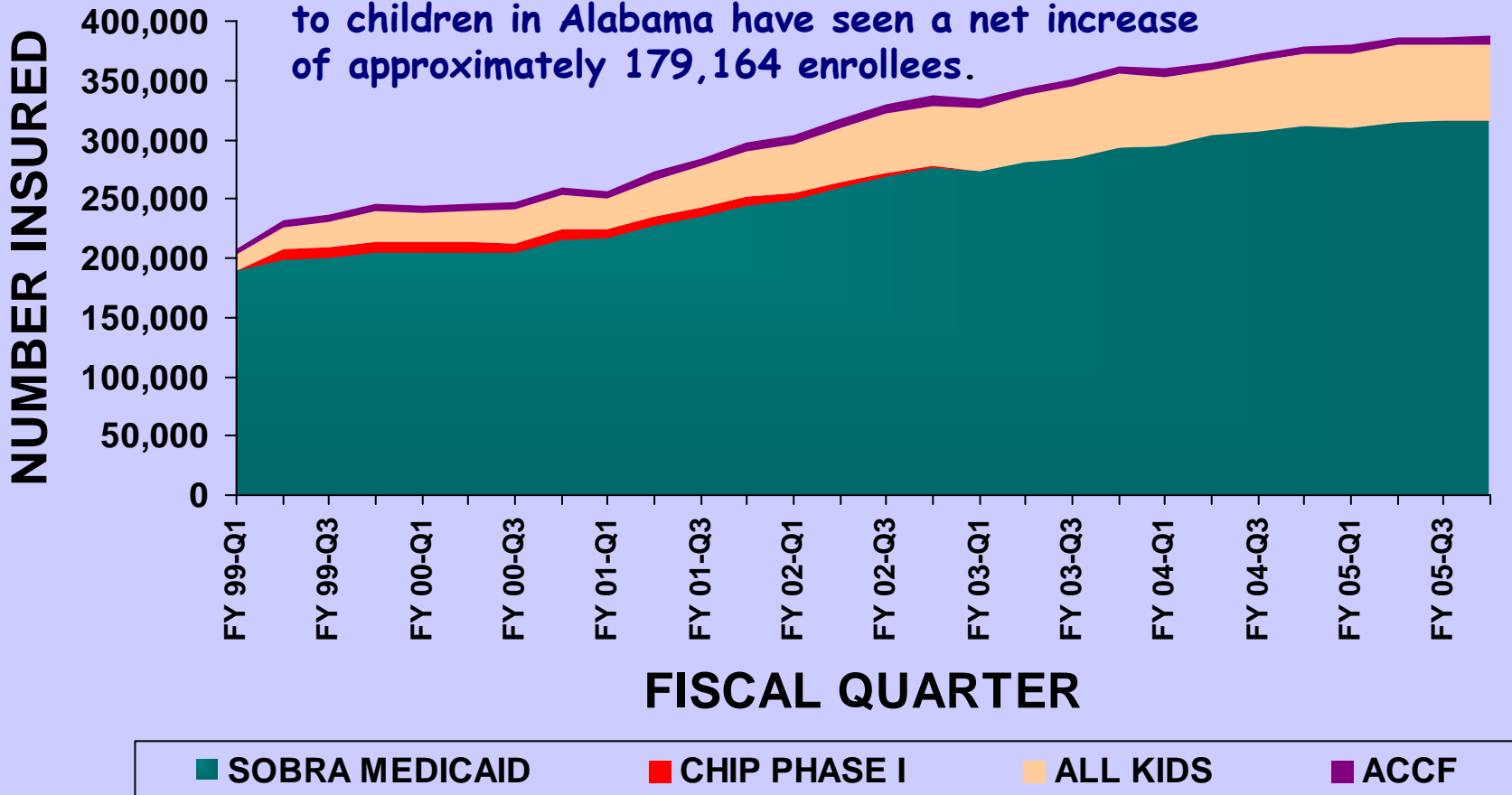
# Alabama Children's Health Insurance Coverage





# Insuring Alabama's Children

Since CHIP Phase 1 began in February 1998, the three programs providing health coverage to children in Alabama have seen a net increase of approximately 179,164 enrollees.





**AIK**Kids

is a low cost, comprehensive

health insurance program for children under age 19



**Goal: To decrease the number of uninsured children**




## Children's Health Insurance Program



- Administered by the Alabama Department of Public Health
- Benefits and Provider Network (PPO) Contracted with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
- Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Benefits and Provider Network Contracted with United Behavioral Health

# New Cards for ALL Kids Enrollees Issued May 2005

<b>Children's Health Insurance Program</b>			
Contract Number		Effective Date	
Group Number	BS Plan	BC Plan	
Good Thru			

- All services except for mental health/substance abuse must be provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Preferred Providers. File these claims to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama.
- Mental health/substance abuse services are provided by United Behavioral Health (UBH). File these claims to UBH.
- Outside Alabama, benefits are for emergency services only. File claims to the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan serving the area where services are received.
- PAC (Preadmission Certification) required for all inpatient admissions. Emergency admissions must be certified by the first business day following the admission. Providers call 1 800 248-2342 or 205 988-2245 in Birmingham.
- **1 800 760-6851** - members call for questions about claims payment or benefits.
- **1 800 848-0659** - members call to reach a nurse 24 hours a day.
- **1 800 320-9697** - members call for mental health/substance abuse services provided through United Behavioral Health (UBH).



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Alabama**

# Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama Preferred Provider Network

- 82% Alabama Covered Lives
- 100% Hospitals
- 95% Medical Doctors
- 75% Dentist



## To qualify, a child must:

- ☞ Be under 19
- ☞ Be an Alabama resident
- ☞ Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible immigrant
- ☞ Not be covered under any health insurance
- ☞ Not be in an institution
- ☞ Not be eligible for dependent coverage under state employees' insurance
- ☞ Not be covered by Medicaid or be eligible for Medicaid





## PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Regular check-ups
- Immunizations
- Sick child doctor visits
- Prescriptions
- 24 hour nurse line
- Hospital and Physician services
- Limited mental health & substance abuse services
- Dental and Vision services

**NO CHILD WILL BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE OF PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS**

# ALL Kids - "Administratively Simple"

- Self declaration of eligibility criteria
- 3 program application
- Yearly premiums with 12 months to pay
- Co-pays collected by providers
- Centralized processing
- Mail-in application
- Web-based application
- Outreach designed to "Touch the People Who Touch the People"





## Children's Health Insurance Program Regional Coordinators



Ava Rozelle, Regional Director  
205-338-3357

Angie James  
256-383-1231

Tina Dooley  
256-582-3174 ext. 419

Bonnie Bradley  
205-558-2106

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Tracy Schofield  
205-554-4528

Paula Clark  
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Diane Abernathy  
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Jamie Manning  
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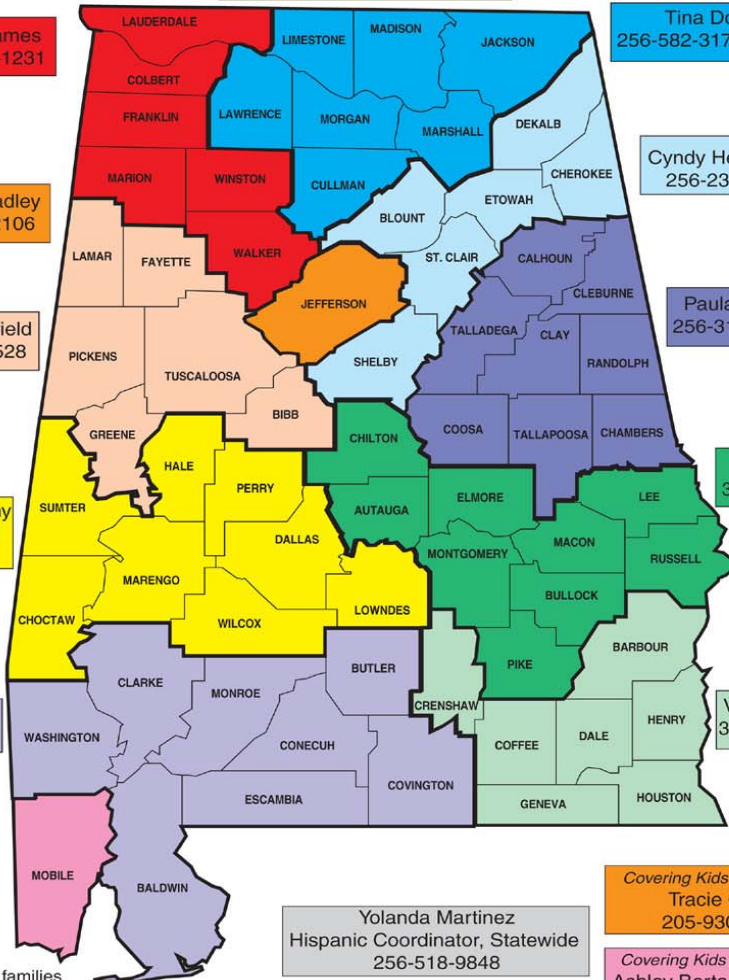
Vickie Carter  
334-678-2800

Covering kids & families  
Belinda Baggett  
251-438-9131

Yolanda Martinez  
Hispanic Coordinator, Statewide  
256-518-9848

Covering Kids and Families  
Tracie Griffin  
205-930-1996

Covering Kids and Families  
Ashley Bertagnoli-Peyer  
251-438-9131



## ALL Kids Regional Coordinators

- Provide Staff Trainings offering contact hours for nurses and social workers
- Attend Parent Meetings and Community Events to educate and distribute information about ALL Kids
- Provide Training, Support and Assistance with the new web-based application

The logo features the word "PAY" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font, followed by "\$mart" in a purple, cursive script font. A red horizontal line is positioned below the "PAY" portion of the logo.

**PAY\$mart**

**ALL Kids Premium  
Payment Plan**

- Payments are manageable and affordable for families
- 2-4 installments are available
- Decreases chance of loss or lapse of coverage due to unpaid premiums



## Contact Information

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