

# CONNECTIONS



August 24, 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 4

## Inside this Issue

1	Compass21 Changes
1	Upcoming Events
1	What's New in Medicaid/Chip?
1	New Resource for Medicaid Stakeholders
2	HHSC Legislative Presentation
2	For the Record.....
2	National Provider Identifier Update
2	Medicaid ID Stuffers
2	Cri-ri, El Grillito Cantor Returns
2	Questions and Answers
3	DSHS Launches Pertussis Prevention Campaign

**Texas Health Steps Branch**  
Health Screening & Case Management Unit  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78756  
512/458-7745

## Compass21 Changes

*September/October 2006 Texas Medicaid Bulletin No. 198*

The current Medicaid Bulletin notifies Texas Health Steps (THSteps) providers of changes to Compass21. Effective September 1, 2006, TMHP will update Compass21 to reflect and enforce the current policy surrounding the THSteps checkup and:

- Audiometric procedure codes
- Cytopathology procedure codes

Check out the Medicaid Bulletin article on page 21 entitled, "[Compass21 Update](#)," in the "Texas Health Steps Providers" section.

## Upcoming Events

### Regional Monthly Conference Call

The next regional monthly conference call has been rescheduled for September 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. CST. Please submit agenda items to [Raymond Andrews](#), Program Specialist, THSteps Central Office, by the 5:00 p.m., September 1, 2006.

The remainder of the regional monthly conference calls for this calendar year has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- October 5, 2006
- November 9, 2006
- December 7, 2006

### Upcoming THSteps Experts Forums

For details concerning future Region 9/10 Experts Forums, contact [Donna Pena](#), THSteps Regional Team Lead. In addition to the Experts Forums, THSteps Region 9/10 is planning a vision and hearing workshop for

October 2-6, 2006 in Midland, Texas, as well as a Comprehensive Pediatric Assessment training session scheduled for October 2006 (time and place to be determined). For more information on the forums and trainings, please contact Donna Pena at (915) 834-7733.

## What's New in Medicaid/CHIP?

### *New Associate Commissioner Named*

**Chris Traylor** has been named Associate Commissioner for Medicaid and CHIP at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Traylor, who has been Chief of Staff at HHSC since 2004, will lead more than 200 employees responsible for overseeing managed care plans for Medicaid and CHIP. Check out the related news release on the [HHSC web site](#).

## New Resource for Medicaid Stakeholders

*HHSC Web Page to share best practices and other resources with stakeholders*

The HHSC Office of Community Collaboration launched a [new web page](#). The Office of Community Collaboration is responsible for collaborating with stakeholders to improve the delivery of Medicaid services by sharing best practices, resources, and information regarding improvements to the health care system. Check out the new site and sign up for their automatic e-mail updates.



## HHSC Legislative Presentation

*HHSC releases its presentation to the Texas House Human Services Committee*

HHSC recently posted its report to the Texas House Human Services Committee. The presentation discusses HHSC's current and future initiatives. Current initiatives include:

- Comprehensive health care for foster children
- Use of psychoactive medications in Texas foster children
- Integrated eligibility and enrollment (IEE)

One future initiative was discussed, the Medicaid Access Card/Integrated Benefits Card. To view the presentation, visit the [HHSC web site](#).

## For the Record...

*August 2006 ImmTrac Newsletter recently released*

The Texas Immunization Registry's most recent newsletter issue, *For the Record*, contains a number of interesting articles. One article deals with recent enhancements made to the ImmTrac system; another explains the difference between reporting immunizations and submitting consent forms. Check out the August 2006 issue of the [For the Record](#) on the Immunization Branch web site.

## National Provider Identifier Update

*August 2006 Long Term Care Bulletin #27 includes NPI Update*

The Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMH) recently released it August Long Term Care Bulletin. One article of interest deals with National Provider Identifier numbers. The article discusses how providers may have more than one NPI number, although only one NPI can be used per contract (number) when submitting claims for payment from the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). View details of this article on the [TMHP web site](#).

## Medicaid ID Stuffers

*Medicaid ID Stuffers available on the web*

DADS provides all SFY 2006 Medicaid ID stuffers and their information letters. Visit the [DADS Medicaid ID stuffer web page](#). In particular note Medicaid ID stuffer #06-15.

## Cri-Cri, El Grillito Cantor Returns

*Popular children's character returns to promote children's Medicaid and CHIP*

HHSC announced in an [August 2006 news release](#) that a popular children's character has returned to radio in new CHIP ads. The news release states, "It has been years since the playful voice of Cri-Cri, El Grillito Cantor (The Singing Cricket), graced the radio airwaves, but now the beloved Mexican children's performer can be heard in a radio campaign encouraging families to enroll their children in CHIP or Children's Medicaid." In Spanish language radio ads that are currently running throughout Texas, Cri-Cri sings "¿Qué horas son?" ("What Time Is It?"), one of more than 300 children's songs written by Francisco Gabilondo Soler, who created Cri-Cri and brought the character to life on Mexican radio for more than three decades in the 1930s through the 1960s.

### Questions and Answers

**Question:** What is the provider required to do if the parent/caregiver does not follow through with bringing the child back for additional tests?

**Answer:** The provider should document all attempts to contact the parent/caregiver. THSteps does not have a specific protocol concerning the number of attempts that must be made, so it is recommended that the provider follow their agency's guidelines in this regard.

**Question:** Is it mandatory that the current mental health tool be used by the provider or can an alternative tool be developed, and if so, by whom?

**Answer:** Upon review, THSteps Central Office determined that the use of the current mental health screening tools are optional, and that the provider may choose alternative tools or techniques that address certain criteria, but the choice and or development of such alternative tools are the responsibility of the provider. As a result, it was determined that THSteps could not develop mental health screening tools different than the one in the TMPPM.



# DSHS Launches Pertussis Prevention Campaign

*As cases of pertussis increase in Texas, DSHS begins preventive education campaign*

Between 1976 and 2005, pertussis increased from 36 to more than 2,000 cases. In the face of the increasing number of cases of this serious bacterial illness (also known as whooping cough), DSHS has embarked on a statewide educational campaign. The campaign will provide information about new vaccines to protect older children and adults against pertussis, and will serve to remind parents of the critical importance of having their children complete the vaccine series at the recommended ages. Check out the [pertussis prevention campaign announcement](#).

Should you have questions regarding the information presented in this publication, please contact Raymond Andrews, Program Specialist, THSteps Branch, at 512/458-7745.

