The Unified Voice for Health Investments

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Advocacy and Outreach Activities

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Letters and Statements

The Coalition for Health Funding undertook several activities to promote our health funding priorities on Capitol Hill and within the administration. We authored 13 letters and statements in response to the House, Senate, and President's budgets and appropriations proposals, threats to the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and more. Copies of the Coalition's letters and statements are available at:

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2019 Year in Review

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At a Glance...

As we enter our 50th year, the Coalition for Health Funding has established itself as the leading voice in strengthening public health and health research through education and advocacy. Our dues-paying, nonprofit member organizations represent the interests of more than 100 million patients, consumers, health providers, professionals, and researchers.

Among the 2019 achievements and offerings to member organizations, the Coalition for Health Funding:

- Met face-to-face with more than 60 policymakers, including Members of Congress.
- Issued 13 letters and statements to protect and promote health funding;
- Hosted the Coalition for Health Funding’s Fourth Annual Public Health Fair, allowing members and public health agencies to showcase their work to more than 200 attendees;
- Organized a briefing with the Congressional Public Health Caucus to educate Hill staff about the budget and appropriations process, which promoted health funding and the Coalition’s brand visibility on Capitol Hill;
- Led efforts to secure passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, which increased the discretionary budget caps by $56.5 billion and made it possible to enact appropriations increasing Department of Health and Human Services funding by $4.4 billion. The deal also brought a welcome end to the ill-conceived era of austerity and the Budget Control Act’s harmful sequester.
- Kept our members informed about federal funding developments through the intelligence and expert analysis provided in 200 editions last year of our daily e-newsletter, “Member Update.”
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Snapshot of Outreach Activities, 2019</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Meetings*</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Meetings**</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events***</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters, Statements****</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Appearances</td>
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<td>Twitter Followers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grassroots Toolkits</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Includes Executive Director and Board meetings with committee and leadership staff, as well as Hill Day meetings and conference calls with lawmakers.
**Includes Executive Director and Board meetings with administration staff, as well as meetings open to all members.
***Includes Meetings of Members, Public Health 101 Briefing, NDD Town Halls, and the Public Health Fair.
****Includes Coalition for Health Funding letters and statements (13), as well as those of our campaign, NDD United (5).
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Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As you determine 302(b) allocations for the Senate fiscal year (FY) 2020 spending bills, the Coalition for Health Funding (CHF) urges you to prioritize our nation’s critical health care programs. Our Coalition members include nearly 100 national health organizations representing patients and consumers and health providers, professionals, and researchers across the country. We firmly believe that the spending bills that support critical health care programs — including the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS), Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (Ag-FDA), and Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (Interior-Environment)—should receive robust allocations that reflect at least a proportional share of the overall nondefense discretionary spending cap increase resulting from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.

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Member Services

Meetings of Members

As a service to its members, the Coalition for Health Funding organizes educational meetings, informal networking events, and briefings with policymakers and experts. Meetings this year included:

- “Budget Boot Camp” training with Emily Holubowich (January)
- Congressional “Budget Bootcamp” briefing (February)
- Freshman Hill Day (March)
- Meeting of Members with Shalanda Young, House Appropriations Committee (March)
- Meeting of Members with House Budget Committee Staff (April)
- Meeting of Members with OMB (May)
- Summer Happy Hour (June)
- Meeting of Members with Wendell Primus, Office of Speaker Pelosi (July)
- Fourth Annual Public Health Fair (September)
- Meeting of Members with Rep. Donna Shalala (December)
- Annual business meeting (December)
Intelligence Sharing
Throughout the year, Coalition members received via the “Member Update” emails important intelligence and analysis on issues related to federal budget and appropriations, including reminders about key dates, bill text and reports, and related white papers and policy briefs, as well as “breaking news” alerts. From Member Updates to breaking news, Coalition members received nearly 250 emails in 2019.

Guest Speaker Appearances
As a service to members, Coalition for Health Funding staff frequently speak at members’ conferences, webinars, and other events at their request. This year, Coalition staff spoke at fifteen such events on topics related to fiscal policy and best practices in advocacy and communications.

CHF Blog
The Coalition continued publishing the “What the Funding” blog, a space for CHF staff and coalition members to highlight the different ways public health funding had an influence on their organization’s policy priorities. We published 20 blogs, with topics ranging from the 2020 Census to STD funding.

Administration
In 2019, the Coalition for Health Funding said goodbye to Emily Holubowich, who served as the Coalition’s Executive Director for ten years, as well as Board of Directors President Craig Kennedy. In addition to their quarterly meetings to oversee CHF’s activities and operations, the Board met numerous times to determine the best strategy for ensuring that CHF activities were uninterrupted by these leadership changes. It was decided that President-Elect Carolyn Mullen would begin her term as Board of Directors President a year early. Benjamin Corb was then elected the new President-Elect at the annual Meeting of Members in December 2019. After convening a search committee, Angela Ostrom was names the new Executive Director and began her work in February 2020.

The Coalition started 2019 with 92 members. As a result of the recruitment efforts of our Board, members, and staff, the Coalition ended the year with 97 members. The Coalition did not meet its strategic goal of 100 members, but will continue to strive toward that goal in 2020. Because of strong member recruitment and retention, the Coalition for Health Funding was able to maintain its dues revenue and ultimately grow its reserve fund for the fourth consecutive year.

The Coalition for Health Funding Board of Directors maintains the goal for the reserve – to establish a minimum reserve of $100,000 to sustain the Coalition’s staff and services for three months in the event of a financial hardship. In 2020, the Coalition for Health Funding will work to increase our membership, expand our fundraising outreach, and grow our reserve funds.
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