



2019 Annual Meeting & Conference

.....
OCTOBER 28-29, 2019
.....

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia (HMHBGA) is a non-partisan 501(c)3 and does not support or oppose any candidate for federal, state or local elected office.

HMHBGA is not responsible for any legal repercussion, fees or other penalties related to the use of unlicensed images in this presentation.

This presentation is the intellectual property of the author(s), 2019.

***Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies. In That Order.
Centering Mother's Voices in Maternal Care.***

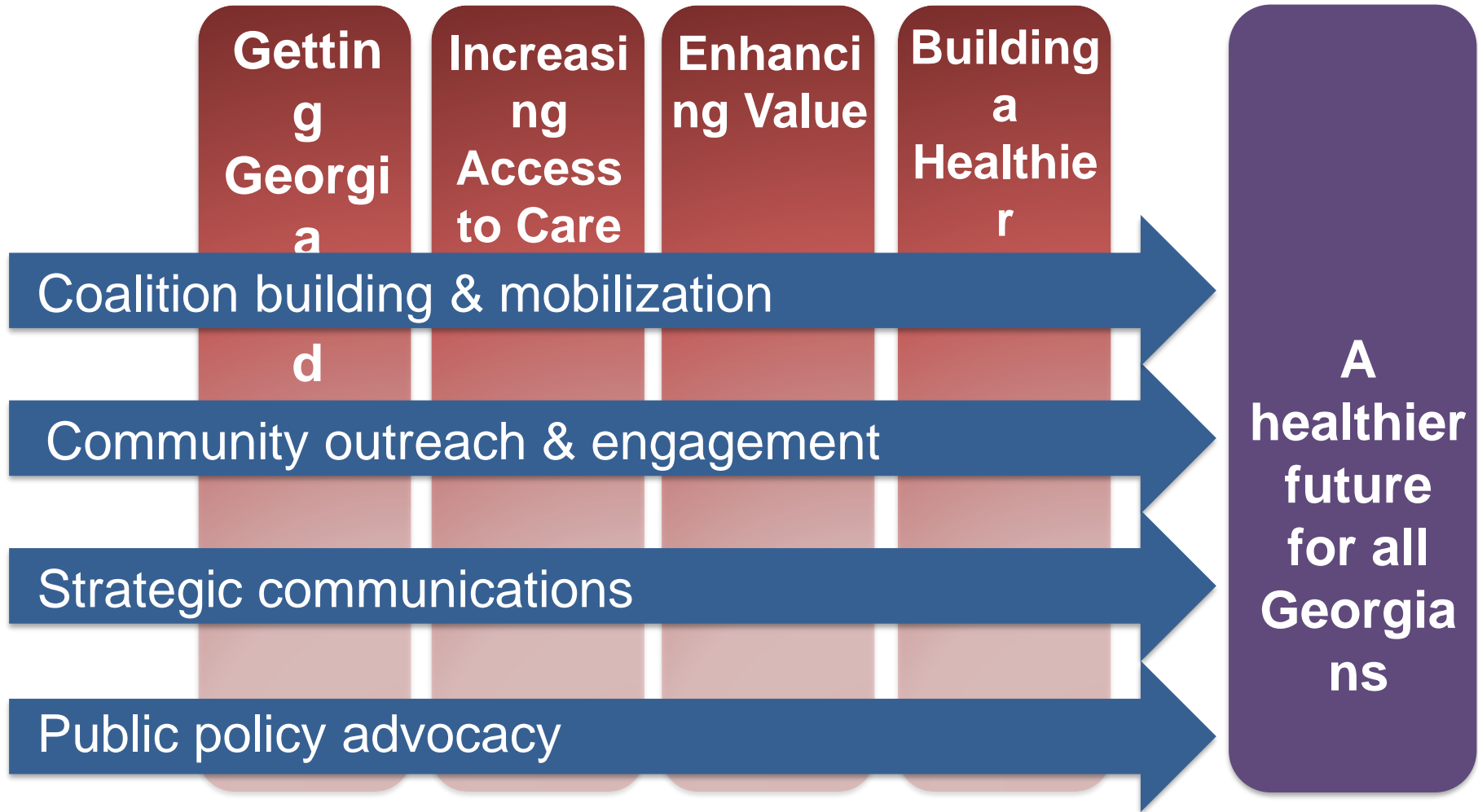


The Patients First Act: What it means for Georgians

Laura Colbert, MPH, CHES

October 28, 2019

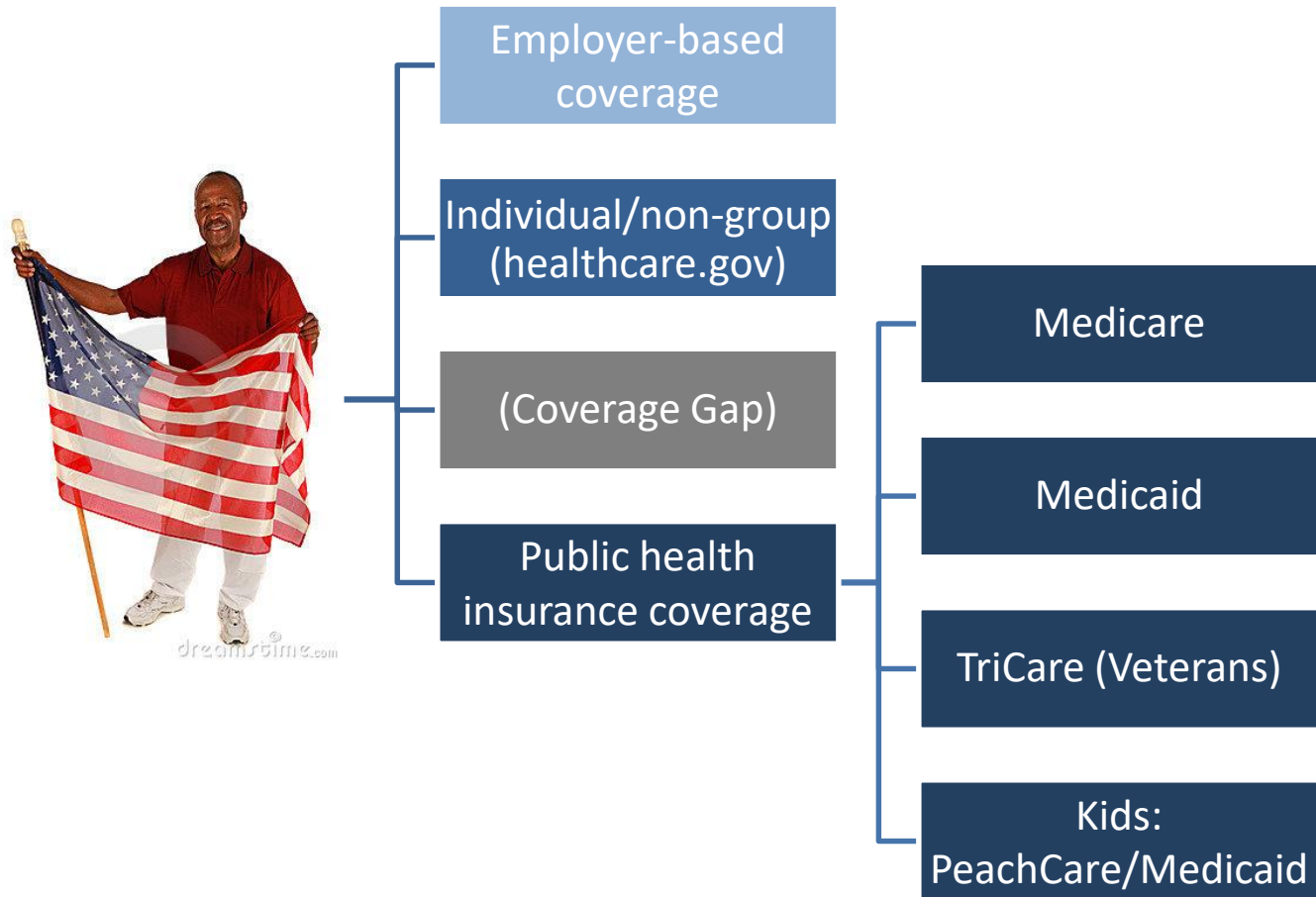
Georgians for a Healthy Future



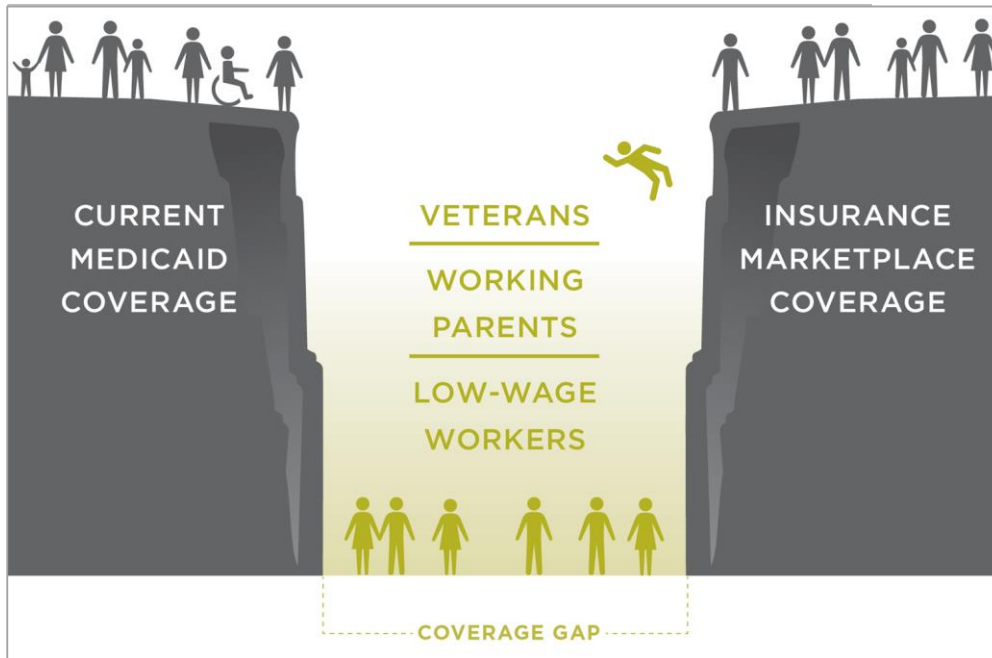
Agenda

- Getting Georgians Covered
- Georgia's Patients First Act
- What are “waivers” and why are they important?
- Proposed timeline & decision-making process
- Where we are now?
- The path forward
 - Value of the public comment & engagement

The creation of the coverage gap



Georgia's Health Insurance Coverage Gap



- 240,000 uninsured Georgians
- Ineligible for Medicaid and do not earn enough to get tax credits on [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)

Who is in the coverage gap?

Hard-working Georgians



- 37% white, 36% black, 22% Hispanic
 - 60% ages 18 to 39
 - Working in construction, food service, grocery stores, retail, education & child care, trucking
-

Georgia's "Patients First Act"

SB 106: The Patients First Act

Effective March 27, 2019

Authorizes Georgia's Department of Community Health (DCH) to submit a Section 1115 waiver to federal govt

- May include increase in the income threshold up to 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL)
- Must be submitted by June 30, 2020

Authorizes GA Governor to submit one or more 1332 waivers to the federal government

- Authority expires Dec. 31, 2021

1115 waivers

Aka “Medicaid” waivers

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act

- Allows states to experiment with new ways to deliver Medicaid
- In use since the 1960s
- 5-year implementation with opportunity to renew
- Must be budget neutral for the federal govt

States have used Section 1115 waivers to:

- Expand Medicaid coverage
- Change provider payments
- Create Georgia's Planning for Healthy Babies program
- Impose barriers to coverage (premiums & co-pays, work reporting requirements)

Potential impact: 2.5 million Georgia children, seniors, people with disabilities, low-income parents, & poor, uninsured adults

Approval process includes 1 state and 1 federal public comment period

1332 waivers

Aka “State Innovation” waivers

Section 1332 of the ACA

- Allows states to experiment with alternative models of providing coverage
- Four guardrails:
 - 1) Provide coverage that is at least as comprehensive as without the waiver;
 - 2) Provide coverage that is at least as affordable;
 - 3) Cover at least as many people; &
 - 4) Budget neutral

States can use 1332 waivers to:

- Improve/reduce essential health benefits (EHBs)
- Change tax credits, cost-sharing reduction payments
- Modify or replace marketplace
- Change individual or employer mandate

10 states with reinsurance programs

Potential impact: 3 million Georgians with individual or small group insurance

Approval process includes 1 state and 1 federal public comment period

Discussion questions:

How could these waivers impact your patients? What about other people in your community?



Objectives of Patients First waivers

As determined by Governor Kemp

1. Improving health outcomes by incenting work-related activities
 2. Improving the health status of Georgians, especially those with lower incomes
 3. Providing stability to Georgia's healthcare providers
 4. Expanding healthcare coverage
 5. Reducing the number of Georgians without health insurance
 6. Stabilizing the individual insurance market
 7. Supporting the Governor's Georgians First small business initiative
-

Proposed timeline for Patients First waivers

June

Deloitte chosen as consultant to work with state agencies to develop waiver plans

October 2019

Deloitte produces several waiver options for Gov. & agencies to consider

October 2019

Governor & agencies select waiver plans they will pursue from options options

Nov. 2019

Earliest possible start of state public comment period

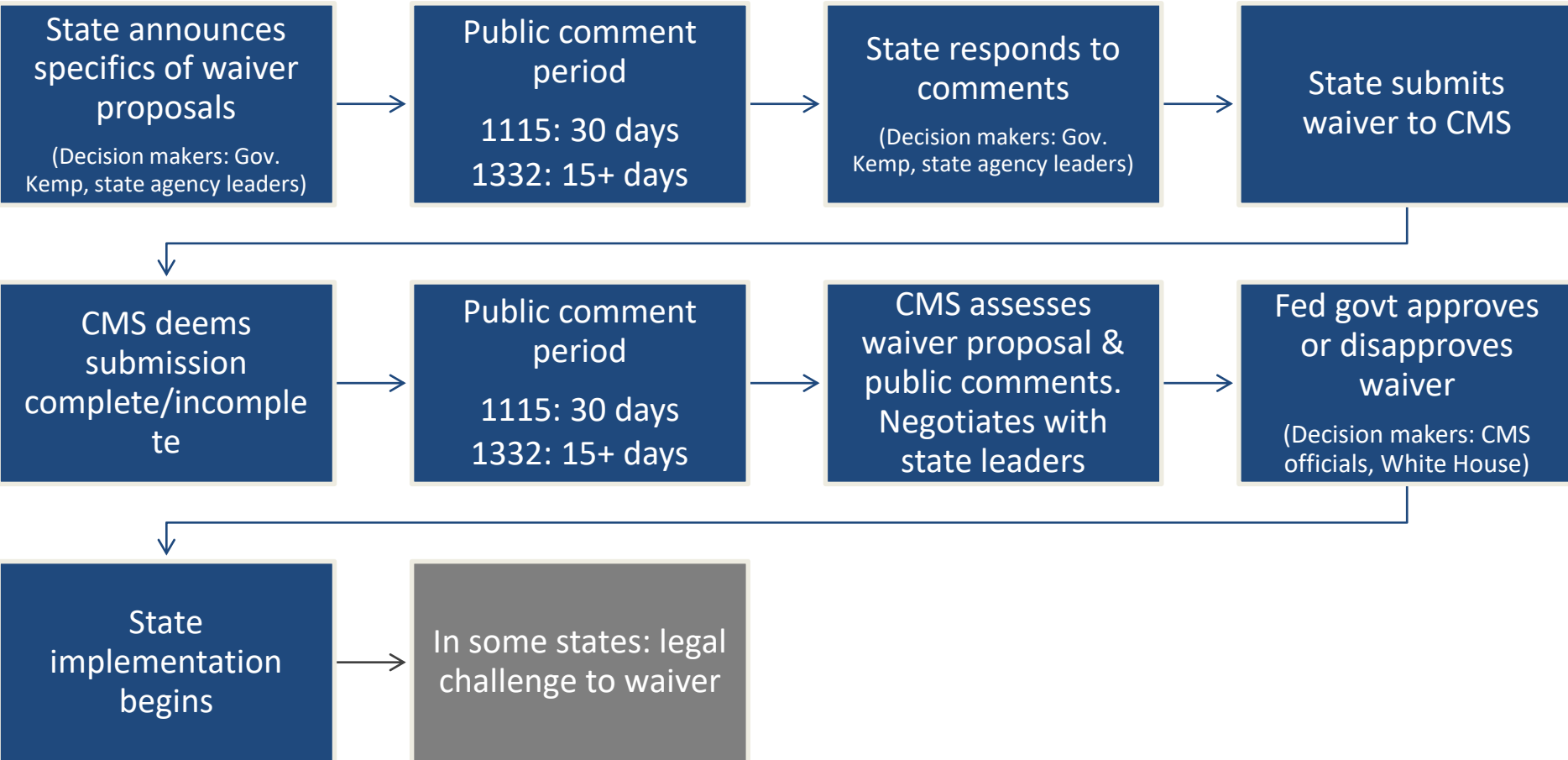
Dec. 2019

Georgia aims to submit waiver paperwork to federal govt

Feb. 2020

Federal public comment period.
April: Earliest federal dis/approval of waivers

Decision-making process for waivers



Where are we now

Work in progress

TIMELINE

- Waiver stakeholder group has been appointed
- Nat'l & state environmental scan completed & presented
- Deloitte is drafting waiver options

1115 WAIVER

- Federal gov't issued decision that Utah could not receive "enhanced match" for "partial expansion"
- GA will still submit 1115 waiver
- Likely to be more limited in scope

1332 WAIVER

- "Reinsurance plus"
- "All the options are on the table"
- May not be submitted at the same time as 1115 waiver

The path forward

THE DETAILS OF THE WAIVERS

- Provide data to decision-makers re: evidence-based ways to improve health thru waiver provisions
- Align requests with coalition partners & other stakeholders

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

- Build awareness of Patients First process ahead of comment periods
- **Mobilize consumers during comment periods**

CLOSE THE GAP!

- If Patients First waivers fall short: renew advocacy for a pathway to comprehensive coverage for all Georgians
(Medicaid expansion)

Public comment periods

Consumers' most valuable tool

Opportunity for consumers to directly weigh in on policy that will impact them

Policy makers better understand barriers to health for consumers

Shapes public narrative about how the waivers will impact Georgians

Builds record of evidence for any necessary

AR | KY |
NH
Judge pointed directly to public comment record in decision to halt waivers

What can you do?



GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE

Discussion question:
How do you think you can help?



A woman with blonde hair is holding a blue sign that reads "PROTECT MY HEALTHCARE. PROTECT THE LAW. #protectthelaw". She is wearing a white shirt and a red skirt. The background shows a crowd of people and a building under a clear blue sky.

PROTECT MY HEALTHCARE.
PROTECT THE LAW.
#protectthelaw

Join the Cover Georgia
coalition

Plan to submit a
comment! (or 4!)

Share your
story or help
us collect
stories!

Stay in touch
at
coverga.org
& #coverGA



GEORGIANS FOR A
HEALTHY FUTURE

Advocacy Resources

- Georgians for a Healthy Future— healthyfuturega.org
 - Georgia Health Action Network
 - Consumer Health Advocates Guide
 - FB & Twitter: @healthyfuturega
 - Health Care Unscrambled:
 - Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 7:30 to 11:30 am, Georgia Freight Depot
 - healthyfuturega.org/events
 - Georgia Budget & Policy Institute—gbpi.org
 - Cover Georgia—coverga.org & #coverGA
 - Georgia Health News— georgiahealthnews.com
-

Thank you!

Laura Colbert, MPH, MCHES
Executive Director

lcolbert@healthyfuturega.org | 404-890-5804



100 Edgewood Avenue, Suite 1015
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-567-5016
Fax: 404-935-9885
info@healthyfuturega.org

healthyfuturega.org

FOLLOW & SHARE

