

Date: March 17, 2017
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Repeal of the Medi-Cal expansion in Shasta County could impact more than 900 jobs and nearly \$147 million loss of business revenue

Redding, CA. – Local Shasta County health leaders announced that a full repeal of the Medi-Cal expansion could cost the county 900 jobs and nearly \$147 million in business revenues.

The analysis was conducted by Partnership HealthPlan of California, a partner with the Shasta Health Assessment and Redesign Collaborative (SHARC), a local collaborative made up of area hospitals, private physicians through the Shasta-Trinity Medical Society, Community Health Centers, and other private and public entities. The group focused on the proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act and, in particular, the repeal of the expansion of Medi-Cal. Currently, 40 percent of Shasta County residents receive Medi-Cal services; of which 27 percent or 16,000 have received health coverage as a result of the Medi-Cal expansion. Those most immediately affected will be the “working poor” – single individuals with low wage jobs who became eligible for Medi-Cal in early 2014.

“Not only did the expansion extend vital health care coverage to thousands throughout the county,” said PHC’s Northern Region Executive Director, and SHARC member Margaret Kisliuk, “it also served as an economic engine in the rural communities we serve. It is important to remember that even those without Medi-Cal coverage will be affected.”

SHARC members are working closely with local leaders to monitor the potential effects of a repeal to the ACA. The funding lost could hurt a variety of vulnerable Shasta County citizens needing vital health care services, in addition to local businesses. The burden will fall upon key community resources such as emergency rooms and clinic waiting rooms.

“In 2014, we had the rare opportunity to include the working poor in preventative care,” said Health Alliance of Northern California’s Executive Director, and SHARC member, Doreen Bradshaw. “We saw the benefits two-fold. First, use of emergency rooms for non-emergency conditions declined by 37 percent and Primary Care visits increased. If the ACA is repealed, expensive ER care will go unreimbursed and will be balanced on the backs of community clinics, hospitals, and those with private insurance.”

The future of the ACA and the Medi-Cal expansion is uncertain, but local health care leaders are committed to working towards the continuation of meaningful coverage and access to quality health care services.

“The expansion has been vital to our patients and to our communities,” said Mountain Valleys Health Centers’ CEO, and Shasta County PHC Commissioner, Dave Jones. “We hope this information will help inform our elected officials about what a repeal of the ACA could mean to Shasta County’s health care delivery system.”

About Partnership HealthPlan of California:

PHC is a non-profit community based health care organization that contracts with the State to administer Medi-Cal benefits through local health care providers across a 14-county service area, including Shasta County. PHC provides quality health care to over 560,000 lives. Beginning in Solano County in 1994, PHC now provides services to 14 Northern California counties - Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity and Yolo.

About Shasta Health Assessment and Redesign Collaborative (SHARC):

SHARC’s membership includes health care leaders providing physical and behavioral health, public health, and social and community services across Shasta County. The collaborative has been meeting since 2010 to coordinate a more organized system of health care delivery for Shasta County to improve access to care, improve quality of services and contain costs.

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