Reducing the Bill for Chronic Diseases

By Debra Miller [1]
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Three out of every four dollars spent for health care is spent on chronic diseases. For state budgets, the drain is even greater—Medicaid spends 83 cents of every dollar on chronic diseases. This CSG Health Policy Academy focused on chronic diseases, their burden to society and evidence-based strategies for prevention, identification and treatment. Whether it is heart disease, mental health, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease or Hepatitis C, considerable research suggests we can do better for those with these often devastating diseases while also being better stewards of state budgets. State policy strategies were presented to meet the dual goals of improving health outcomes and reducing health care spending.

Presentation by Mary Kay Owens, Executive Director, Institute for Healthcare Innovation Strategies

Mary Kay Owens

Mary Kay Owens is president and principal consultant for Institute for Innovation Healthcare Strategies (IHIS Health), a national pharmaceutical and health care consulting and data analytics firm. She is a pharmacist by training and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy and serves as a consultant to the Florida Center for Medicaid and the Uninsured, a health policy analysis and research institute. Ms. Owens was recently appointed to the National Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Alliance Board and has served on various Medicaid Advisory Boards and has provided services to the Florida Medicaid Reform Advisory Commission and the Ohio Commission to Reform Medicaid.

Mary Kay has authored numerous publications such as Identifying and Quantifying the Cost of Uncoordinated Care, The Healthcare Imperative: Lowering Costs and Improving Outcomes, The National Institute of Medicine; and Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit Management published in the book, Managed Care Pharmacy Practice, in nationwide distribution. She also authors health care policy issue briefs on Medicaid/Medicare, journal articles, and provides content for educational programs and Internet sites.