



CHI UPDATE

HHS Deputy Secretary Alex Azar (far right) and CHI Founding Director Ann Armstrong-Dailey laud former HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson for his leadership on the CHI PACC Program providing improved health care for children with life-threatening conditions.



2005 CHI & CHI PACC® Events

- March 23-24, 2005** **CHI PACC Technical Assistance Conference** at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Baltimore, MD
Featuring CMS Experts and CHI PACC Program Directors
- May 22, 2005** **CHI's 22nd Anniversary** – *Statements submitted to the Congressional Record by U.S. Senator Bob Bennett (R-UT) and Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA)*
- July 26, 2005** **Congressional Briefing – Focus on the U.S. House of Representatives**
Featuring Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) and letters from Congressmen Joel Hefley (R-CO) and Bob Beauprez (R-CO)
- September 8, 2005** **Congressional Briefing – Focus on the U.S. Senate, U.S. Capitol, featuring U.S. Senators Wayne Allard (R-CO) and John Salazar (D-CO)**
Hall of States Briefing – Focus on the Governors
Featuring CMS Experts and CHI PACC Program Directors
- September 29 - October 2, 2005** **CHI World Congress, Salt Lake City, Utah.** Special thanks to Dr. & Mrs. J.P. Hughes for hosting a fabulous opening reception at their historic home!
- October 12, 2005** **Secretary Tommy Thompson Event**
- November (Date TBD)** **Colorado Delegation Event**
Announcing submission of Colorado Waiver to CMS for CHI PACC
Invited participants will include Colorado Governor Bill Owens, Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives from Colorado
- December 3, 2005** **Fantasy Flight**

Upcoming Events

Secretary Thompson honored with the Mattie Stepanek Champion Award for his dedication to CHI PACC

At a stellar tribute on October 12th on Capitol Hill, national health care leaders honored former HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson for his leadership on CHI's Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and their Families (CHI PACC).

"CHI PACC is an example of a successful federal-state partnership that can have an immediate effect on children in need. I am proud to have helped shape this program during my tenure at HHS," said Secretary Thompson.

"During his career, Tommy Thompson has become one of our nation's most respected public officials," said HHS Deputy Secretary Alex Azar.

"Secretary Thompson provided the leadership, vision, and compassion to direct CMS in the development and approval of innovative waivers such as the one approved for Florida to support CHI PACC," said Dennis Smith of CMS.

Florida was the first state to obtain its waiver for CHI PACC (July 2005). Colorado and Utah expect waiver approval within the next three months, with Virginia and other states soon to follow.

In a letter read at the reception, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) wrote: "Knowing that CHI PACC is dedicated to a young hero – Mattie Stepanek – who taught adults the lessons of compassion, tenacity and determination, it is fitting that this honor be bestowed on Secretary Thompson."

Moran noted that he has requested an appropriation in the FY2006 Federal Budget for the CHI PACC effort nationally.

Thompson also weighed in on that. "This fall, as we look for solutions, I urge our policymakers to learn more about this reform-minded program which has a major impact on the quality of life for children and families."

Mattie Stepanek's mother, Jeni, regretted she could not attend. "Mattie thought very highly of him as an advocate, and as a person," she said.

"Secretary Thompson, is truly a champion for these special children and families and everyone involved in caring for them," said CHI Founding Director Ann Armstrong-Dailey.