

Healthcare Homes and Birth Centers



One AABC legislative initiative for 2013 is to introduce legislation to add birth centers as a Medicaid “Healthcare Home” (aka Medical Home) for childbearing women and their infants. Birth centers provide woman- and family-centered care that exemplifies the maternity care coordination and client engagement of the Healthcare Home model.

The Patient Centered Healthcare Home is a health care setting that facilitates partnerships between individual patients, and their personal care providers, and when appropriate, the patient’s family. Care is facilitated by information technology, health information exchange and other means, to make sure clients get the right care, when and where they want and need it, at the right time, in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. While we prefer to call this model the "Client

Centered Healthcare Home", the designation is referred to as a Healthcare Home in most legislation and policy.

Why Birth Centers as Healthcare Homes?

Midwifery led care in birth centers embodies the concept of Medical or Healthcare Home. The holistic model of care has systems in place for care coordination, engagement of clients and their families in their care, assuring that clients get the level of care they need, when they need it, in a culturally appropriate manner.

So far, Medicaid language has required that a physician direct Healthcare Homes. But we believe that evidence shows that midwives, including CPMS, CNMs, and CM's can direct and coordinate Patient-Centered Healthcare Homes (Birth Centers) for childbearing women.

Designation of qualified birth centers as Healthcare Homes would extend Medicaid and private insurance funding support to promote the development of and access to birth center care for more women in the US.

Action requested from our members is to contact their legislators and ask them to sponsor a bill to add the birth center as a covered Healthcare Home under Medicaid.