

National Webinar Summary

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http://www.results.org/skills_center/results_national_conference_calls/

Experts on Poverty Share

Brittany Burnam (Denison, TX)

- New Expert on Poverty with RESULTS
- Brittany just started new job at the [Coalition on Human Needs](#) in Washington, DC
- She has also written for the [Huffington Post](#) and has her own website (www.liberalartsdiva.com) which is worth checking out.
- Experience at the RESULTS Conference in DC was amazing
- My experience as a REAL Change alum was great as well (was part of the 2016-17 class)
 - It was good to hear about how policy shapes and affect those who experience poverty
- As a new Expert on Poverty, I want to use my story to empower people in poverty and help change policy and the minds of those who make policy
 - RESULTS taught me the importance of sharing my story
 - RESULTS helped me to deal with the shame of being in poverty and to be vulnerable as well
 - RESULTS also gave me a family as well with the Experts and the organization; I feel genuinely welcomed
- Grew up in middle class area until 4th grade
- When my mom was pregnant with my brother (her 4th), we got evicted from our home and had to live with my auntie for a year
- When I went to 5th grade, we moved into a Habitat for Humanity home in an underserved area
- I noticed going to a middle-class school where we had text books and art classes and then underserved schools where we didn't
- I began working at 15 to help my family (all of us we were working)
- Anti-poverty programs like Medicaid and SNAP were essential for our family
- When I went to college, I aged out of Medicaid and had to go without until my mom could get me covered on her plan

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- But still had out-of-pocket costs
- Was in the hospital and had to pay \$1,000, which I did not have
- Was homeless as a college student, this was hard as I was a first-generation college student
 - I was not the only college student who had to use anti-poverty programs like SNAP
- The threats currently going on are something I am passionate about
- When I think of the millions of people who lives are at stake if they lose health care or SNAP, I get upset
- As a native of Texas, I have experienced the harsh reality of not only federal cuts but extreme cuts on the state level and I appreciate the support results and its members have shown to fighting against poverty
- Everyone deserves access to health care and food on the table
- Thank you for having me

Welcome

Joanne Carter, Executive Director of RESULTS/RESULTS Educational Fund
(Washington, DC)

Thank you so much Brittany for your powerful words and for your leadership as an advocate--as a REAL Change Fellow and now as one of the Experts on Poverty.

Your eloquence and your courage and your power in sharing your experience really ground us in why our advocacy matters so much.

I want to welcome everyone the RESULTS US Poverty webinar for August 2017. I want to especially welcome anyone who is joining for the first time.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Joanne Carter, Executive Director of RESULTS.

It was so good to be with many of you in person at the RESULTS International conference three weeks ago in Washington DC. And to have your collective presence at such a critical moment. And it's a lot more fun in Washington when you're all here.

Following up on Brittany's opening, I want to start by acknowledging the incredibly important and impactful role that the Experts on Poverty played in the RESULTS conference this year—as leaders with lived experience of poverty. The Experts have been the leading edge of our advocacy to protect anti-poverty programs, and are informing the direction of our work going forward. And this year, feedback we received from conference was that the Experts were the most important and moving and transformational sessions and moments at the whole conference. So thank you!

You never know this when you schedule a conference, but literally OUR Lobby Day on the Tuesday of the conference was the kick-off of that incredibly important and difficult week of

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Senate votes on health care. And we heard from Senators Susan Collins and Sherrod Brown at our morning kick-off about the challenges ahead that week and why us being there that day and that week was so important.

And while those challenges and threats are not gone, we need to take a collective moment to celebrate the amazing victory of protecting Medicaid from what could have been disastrous cuts to the health care of tens of millions of vulnerable people.

The health care story is a complex one with lots of political factors. But ONE THING is ABSOLUTELY clear—and that is the impact of grassroots advocates on the outcome. I said it at the conference and it is even more true now: when we look back, one of the biggest stories of 2017 will be the amazing grassroots upsurge to protect health care and especially Medicaid.

This battle was won outside DC. And the record breaking media work you all did (more media in the first half of 2017 than all of 2016), your deep engagement in meeting with members of Congress across the political spectrum, your ongoing work with their staff, really was a unique and crucial contribution to that victory.

We won these most recent battles. But **it is critical** that we keep pushing the message of protecting Medicaid to ensure healthcare for tens of millions of low-income and otherwise vulnerable people in this country. There may well be threats ahead related to the budget or tax reform or further attempts on health care. So we need to keep delivering a clear message that harmful cuts to Medicaid and other proven anti-poverty programs must be off the table.

That's why your meetings with members of Congress during the next three weeks—when members are back in the district until after Labor Day--are so timely and important.

I want to end by acknowledging the terrible events in Charlottesville, the violent racism and hate and anti-Semitism and xenophobia that were present. And also the response to counter that hate and violence and oppression in many places across the country.

The events in Charlottesville make even clearer the importance of our advocacy to drive policies that address and undo systematic injustice and inequality. These systems of injustice and oppression are ones we as a society have created over centuries. And what bad policy has helped create, good policy can help undo.

And the awful events in Charlottesville, ALSO point to the critical importance of our own anti-oppression work as an organization. To succeed in dismantling the forces of oppression in our country and the world, we need to also dismantle them in our movement. We are very committed to continuing this work. At the close of the call, Ginnie Vogts will share details about an Anti-Oppression webinar tomorrow night. Please join us for a thoughtful discussion.

So thank you for everything you do in these challenging times and what you've shown is possible when we work together with courage and persistence and commitment toward a more just and equitable country and world.

Now I am going to turn the call over Meredith Dodson our Director of Domestic Campaigns to give a campaign update and help strategize about getting August Congressional meetings. But first to hear from some of you about your experiences at the RESULTS conference.

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Grassroots Shares

Facilitated by Joanne Carter

- **Begoña Caballero-Garcia**, RESULTS Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC)
 - Sharing about her experience as a first-time attendee at the IC (despite having been a volunteer for more than 5 years)
 - Wanted to go to conference for many years
 - Became citizen in February
 - First word based on experience: inspiring!
 - Speakers were inspiring, wide range of expertise, make you want to keep up with our goals
 - Learning experience: learned from speakers, being on Capitol Hill: members of Congress and staff listened to us
 - Had a great time!
- **Shelby Ruprecht**, RESULTS St. Louis and 2017 REAL Change Fellow
 - Sharing about her Conference experience as a first-timer and new REAL Change Fellow
 - In college learned about health policy, wanted to become an advocate
 - Found out about RESULTS via Sarah, St. Louis GL and former REAL Changer
 - Conference was amazing, hearing from Experts on Poverty.
 - Loved meeting people from all over the country, learn from other people from different background
 - Refreshing: no sense of self-righteousness, learn and share with an open mind
 - Michael Blake: we are not here for rewards, we are here for RESULTS (results)
 - Lobby Day: incredible energy (even though sick), as came out of last lobby meeting (was leading it, nervous, scheduling mishaps), but meeting went okay and Rep signed on to resolution on global education the next day.
 - Jos said I'd be a whole new advocate by the end and I was – at Senator's coffee meeting the next day, was confident talking to the senator.
 - Bringing confidence and experience back home
 - Now working on letters to the editor
- **Debbie Baskin**, RESULTS Salt Lake City

One thing I really wanted to share about the International Conference is the U.S. Background Packet that the RESULTS staff puts together to help us learn all of the current campaigns. This packet really helped me to understand the Medicaid program and as I have been following up

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on lobby meetings it has been incredibly helpful—most of the objections that aides made to Medicaid & SNAP have already been thoughtfully answered in the background packet.

I was asked to share an experience I had with Senator Hatch's aide.

Several years ago, when I was lobbying with the global group on lobby day we met with Senator Hatch's aide in Washington, DC. We had met with this aide several times before. As we were presenting the aide interrupted and said, "you know, I really need to be hearing from you more than once a year."

As we left, I remembered her words but recalled the last year. We hadn't had any asks on the Senate side during the last year.

A few months ago, I was invited to an Advocacy Training with this same aide. She told the audience that she would like to be hearing from us every month. A woman in the audience was baffled, "What if we don't have a request for you every month?" she asked. "You just want us to email and tell you these programs are working?"

The aide replied back, "YES!" She went on to explain that every time she gets an email from us it gives her an excuse to go and talk with her boss and talk about our issue.

As a group leader I've decided to try having the Senate Point Person contact the Senator's aide each month. Often, I have sent a stack of studies and media to the Senator's staff but one study is more likely to be read than a stack of ten and the more they see the same name showing up in their inbox the more likely we are to gain their attention.

Update on U.S. Poverty Campaigns

Meredith Dodson, Director of U.S. Poverty Campaigns (Washington, DC)

- **Health care:**
 - Because of your advocacy – which this year alone includes **280 media pieces, 87 face-to-face meetings, and 102 outreach events** – and countless others standing up for health care...
 - You stopped Senate leaders from getting 50 votes on three different ACA repeal and/or replace bills
 - You stopped Congress from taking health coverage away from 16 to 32 million people
 - You stopped Congress from ending Medicaid as we know it
 - But still threats loom... Repeal and replace efforts could be resurrected threatening Medicaid and the ACA
 - Key message: keep Medicaid off the table
 - CHIP renewal could be used as bargaining chip for Medicaid cuts
- **2018 Budget**

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- Deep cuts to entitlement programs in House budget – [over 1/3 total](#)
- Includes “fast track” cuts via budget reconciliation to Medicaid, SNAP, and EITC/CTC
- House is expected to vote on their budget resolution in September
- Senate Budget Committee will also begin work to move their budget in September
- Budget messages:
 - Representatives: **oppose the House budget resolution that cuts SNAP and Medicaid**
 - Senators: **oppose entitlement or reconciliation cuts in their budget resolution** that pose a threat to anti-poverty programs
- **Tax legislation**
 - Using entitlement cuts to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy
 - Abandoning revenue-neutrality
 - Making bad changes to the EITC/CTC

August Action

Set Up Meetings August to Protect Core Anti-Poverty Programs

RESULTS volunteers completed a busy July with a strong presence on Capitol Hill on July 25 as part of the 2017 RESULTS International Conference. Your push to protect Medicaid that day, and for the last six months, led to a dramatic victory in the health care fight just a few days later when the Senate failed to pass any of their health reform bills. While this was a great win for Americans on [Medicaid](#), the threat is not over. The House is moving forward with a budget with deep cuts to Medicaid and [SNAP](#) (formerly, food stamps) and the Senate could revive their health care effort in the fall. Use the August recess to protect core anti-poverty programs in the budget and during the upcoming tax reform debate.

For tips on getting meetings and to see sample Laser Talks on Medicaid, SNAP, and taxes, see the August Action: http://www.results.org/take_action/august_2017_u.s._poverty_action.

August Training – Reflection and Motivation Exercise

Kristy Martino, U.S. Poverty Organizer (Kittery Pointe, ME)

- Health care victory (for now) is a good time to step back and reflect on just how important the work you do is
- While successes like this are inspiring and great jolt of energy, we all have something deeper that motivates us to do this work
- This motivation is personal and different for each person, but articulating it can serve as an inspiration for yourself and help others find their own motivations to advocate

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- Plus, this fall promises to be quite busy so this is a good time to rest and get ready for what's next
- Let's get started
 1. How did you feel when you heard that the Senate had defeated attempts to gut Medicaid? Take 2 minutes to write it down. If you want, paste it into the chat box, go ahead.
 2. Why did you feel that way? In other words, what underlying value(s) did this victory connect to within in you? Take two minutes to write that down. If you want, paste it into the chat box, go ahead.
 3. We know that this victory was an important one, but it doesn't always turn out that way. We have setbacks too. As you think of your work with RESULTS now and in the future, what motivates or sustains you to keep going? Take 2 minutes to write it down. If you want, paste it into the chat box, go ahead.
 4. Taking what you've written down into account, what is one action you will take in the next month to reduce poverty in America? Take a few minutes to write that down and discuss with your group.
- Meredith shares some insights people shared in the Fuze chat box
 - Theme emerging that while we as individuals relieved or hopeful, there is also frustration when our own members of Congress did not vote the way we wanted
 - Lots of powerful statements that value our country to be a better place and the way their policy makers were voting did not reflect that
- Dane, Raleigh, NC: Discussion from this past weekend and over the last year, we need to approach these challenges with a sense of focus and positivity
 - Too much negativity around us and saying that people like us are wrong
 - We need to extend a hand in peace and support and not raise an arm in a Nazi salute
- Keep what you wrote down and if you are not meeting with your group tonight, encourage your group to do the same exercise the next time you meet. It's a good way to remind you just how effective and special you all are. Plus, these things are part of your story. Sharing the successes, feelings, and motivations for your advocacy can be an inspiration to others. As you look at your next lobby meeting, or outreach meeting, or laser talk, or letter, ask yourself: what parts of this story can I share to inspire others?

RESULTS Announcements

Meredith Dodson

- **Join RESULTS Anti-Oppression Discussion Tomorrow at 8:30 pm ET.** Now more than ever, it's important to look boldly at the reality of race and gender bias -- and

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understand how the two can combine to create even more harm. As part of our work to better understand issues of overt and subtle forms of oppression in society, RESULTS is hosting a webinar to examine “intersectionality” as described by civil rights advocate and scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw in this [enlightening TED Talk](#). In this moving talk, she calls on us to bear witness to multiple forms of exclusion happening simultaneously and speak up for victims of prejudice. We hope you will join us for a discussion exploring the relationship between intersectionality and poverty. The discussion is Wednesday, August 16 at 8:30 pm ET. To join the Webinar, you can find the Fuze login in the slides. Before that call, please watch Kimberlé Crenshaw’s Intersectionality TED Talk at the link there in the slides.

- **RESULTS is moving to a new online database called Voter Voice** for weekly updates, action alerts, researching members of Congress, generating media, among other things. The new database will have exciting new tools for you to use in your advocacy work. We’ll have more information about the database and how to use it in the coming weeks. For now, we ask for your patience as we make this transition and don’t hesitate to contact Jos Linn if you have questions after it goes online.
- **Please Fill out Lobby Report Forms** for your meetings at the Conference (including with aides only) and back home: www.tinyurl.com/RESLRF.
- If you want support in taking action but don’t have a RESULTS group nearby, become a RESULTS Free Agent. The next **U.S. Poverty Free Agents support calls will be Tuesday, August 22 at 1pm and 8pm ET**. You can see the login info in the slides. If you have questions, contact Jos Linn.
- If you know someone wanting to learn more about RESULTS, urge them to register for a RESULTS Introductory Call. **Our next Intro Call is Friday, August 25 at 1:00 pm ET**. People can register for an upcoming call on the [RESULTS website](#).
- Find these and other events on the [RESULTS Events Calendar](#).
- Thank you for being on tonight’s webinar! Our next National Grassroots Webinar is **Tuesday, September 12 at 8:00pm ET**. 2016 U.S. Census poverty data comes out the same day.

Final Action – Use Media to Protect Medicaid and SNAP

Meredith Dodson

Whether it’s keeping Medicaid cuts off the table or protecting SNAP in the 2018 budget, send a letter to the editor (or two) about protecting these programs (and add to your amazing media totals – 281 pieces so far in 2017).

Use our online alerts:

Medicaid LTE: http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=74463626&MC_plugin=2201

SNAP LTE: http://capwiz.com/results/issues/alert/?alertid=64248626&MC_plugin=2201

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