When A Diagnosis Throws Life Off Course

BRIDGET L. – SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

That's Medicaid shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.

Bridget L. has lived with a serious chronic disease for nearly 20 years, requiring hours of dialysis in her doctor's office every week to stay alive. Her healthcare journey began in high school, when she noticed her ankles were swollen, eventually leading to a diagnosis of serious kidney disease. She arrived at college the next fall with the typical dorm gear and a variety of medications to manage her disease. But her health continued to decline, requiring two kidney transplants in just two years.

Although her education was interrupted, Bridget eventually finished college and got a job she loved with the state legislature. But as her health further declined, she could no longer juggle a demanding, full-time job with dialysis treatments at home every night. She left her career to move home with her parents to get the support she desperately needed.

"**I remember being in the hospital crying**," she said. "**I didn't want to leave and give up on my life, or a career I loved and worked so hard to build**."

Today, Bridget receives dialysis for four hours a day, three times each week, a clinic near her home. She is covered by Medicare and Medicaid and shares her journey through her blog, which connects her to kidney disease patients across the country.