

**MINUTES OF THE
MEDICAID INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 – 8:00 a.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack, Senate Chair
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. D. Gregg Buxton
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Paul Ray

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Mr. Leif G. Elder, Research Analyst
Mr. Derek Byrne, Analyst
Mr. Stan Eckersley, Analyst
Mr. William Greer, Analyst
Ms. Debbie Headden, Analyst
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Phalin L. Flowers, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Killpack called the meeting to order at 8:13 a.m.

Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

2. Medicaid Program Overview

Mr. Andrews presented "Making Your Way Through the Medicaid Maze: A Policymaker's Introduction." The presentation gave an overview of Medicaid and how the program is funded. It explained the flexibility policymakers have in designing Medicaid and the current and projected costs of the program. It also explained how the Medicaid program is designed and listed mandatory and optional services and eligibility groups. Committee discussion followed.

3. Medicaid Programs and Funding

Mr. Greer discussed "Ten-year Appropriations History - Health," "Medicaid Enrollment and Spending Trends," "Health & Human Services - Department of Health Appropriation Summary & Budget Highlights," "Commerce and Revenue Appropriation Summary & Budget Highlights," and "A New Medicaid," which were distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Greer also distributed and discussed "NCSL Principles for Medicaid Reform" and "Mandatory and Optional Services - Three Components of Mandatory and Optional." He identified four specific agencies that are involved in the Medicaid process and discussed how funds are appropriated to those agencies. He also pointed out areas that had a reduction in funding.

4. Survey Overview

Mr. Vaughn discussed "Survey of Health and Human Services Programs," "2006 Medicaid Study: Potential Objectives, Issues, and Data Requirements," and "Medicaid Interim Committee Study Time Line," which were distributed prior to the meeting. He explained that the survey was sent to all programs that utilize Medicaid funds, and to all programs within the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services, regardless of whether they receive Medicaid funds. The survey was designed to determine what programs exist, how they are funded, how they should be prioritized, and whether any can be combined to enhance their effectiveness.

Mr. John Nixon, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, distributed and discussed "Department of Human Services - FY 2007 Appropriated Funding," "Department of Human Services Program Summary," "Department of Workforce Services - FY 2007 Appropriated Funding," "Department of Workforce Services Program Summary," "Department of Health - FY 2007 Appropriated Funding," and "Department of Health Program Summary."

5. Committee Objectives

Chair Killpack briefly explained the objectives of the Committee. He emphasized the importance of user accountability, cost management, and using Medicaid resources effectively.

6. Medicaid Overview, Funding Issues, and Goals -- Department of Health

Dr. David N. Sundwall, M.D., Executive Director, Utah Department of Health, discussed "Utah Medical Assistance 2005: Annual Statistical Report of Medicaid & Utah Medical Assistance Program - Fiscal Year 2005," which was distributed prior to the meeting. He also distributed and discussed "Opening Statement for the Medicaid Interim Committee - Utah Legislature" and "Cost Saving Initiatives By Medicaid."

Dr. Sundwall recommended that the Committee leave traditional public health programs as they currently are, including programs for childhood obesity prevention, childhood immunizations promotion, early intervention for special needs children, and pandemic influenza. He also gave the Committee an overview of recent efforts made in the Medicaid program to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and spoke about future improvements in Medicaid and Governor Huntsman's desire to expand health insurance to uninsured Utahns.

Ms. Tani Downing, Executive Director, Department of Workforce Services, gave a brief overview of Utah's TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program. She explained that many individuals on TANF also qualify for Medicaid.

Mr. Michael Hales, Director, Division of Health Care Financing, Utah Department of Health, spoke to the Committee about the federal match rate for Medicaid funding. He said the federal poverty level is currently at \$9,800 per year (for a one-person household).

7. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Alexander moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with

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Sen. Christensen and Sen. Hillyard absent for the vote.

Chair Killpack adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.