
MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 2nd
Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM
Location: Department of Health
Room 125
Cannon Office Building
288 N 1460 W
Salt Lake City

Conference Call-in Number: 1-800-350-0593
No Access Code Required

DOH/Health:

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

1:05 Medicaid Enrollment Increase (Nate Checketts)

Medicaid enrollment in Utah has grown by over 20%. Now nearly 200,000 Utahns receive coverage through the program.

As we enter the legislative session there will be important to understand:

1. Are there some programs growing more quickly than others?
2. What additional funding will be necessary to cover this enrollment growth?
3. Are there other ramifications to this tremendous growth (e.g., insufficient providers within the system).

2:00 Update on Emergency Medicaid Dental.

The DOH was doing a cost benefit analysis of providing this service. Has this been completed?

2:15 How can the advocate community help the Department during the session? (Nate Checketts)

Lots of challenges facing the Department this year with decreased revenues, unprecedented Medicaid growth, and the legislative audit. How can the advocate community help DOH communicate with the legislature about the Department's needs?

DWS/Work Supports:

2:30 Welcome and Introductions

2:35 Follow-Up Items

a. General Assistance

1. Anything on talking to Lloyd Pendleton about offering more training in SOAR?
 - a. Helen, no, but Jeff Webster gonna get trained to be a trainer.
 - b. How to start these conversations – put a lot of resources into getting SOAR started but not sure how many community partners are doing this activity. Some is happening in the community, but not sure about the whole of the state. Need a state effort on this.
 - c. MKS – gonna meet with LDS church to see if they can help with this. Is more than GA.
 - d. Helen - Is really about this population all over the state that need these services. Not just GA customers.
2. Follow-up discussion on General Assistance Public Hearing - What are the results? Any changes being planned, based on public comments? How is DWS going to track the impacts of each separate change? Advocates would appreciate a monthly budget update on this, so we can plan for our legislative activities. (Karen Silver)
 - a. Helen - Three weeks to four weeks behind, but will have report next month. Would like to handle it by just bringing it to the MM. Caseload at end of Aug is 1,141, down from 1,597.
 - i. SOAR works, it's worth the effort. All of the GA counselors will be trained in SOAR, that is all they will be doing. The \$261 and the SOAR service were the most valuable things of the GA program and that is what we decided to save.
 - ii. Tim Funk is looking for experiences of people who have been cut off of GA due to the time limits. If want to let him know, let Karen know.
 - iii. Don't forget \$2.2 million of the \$5 million is one time money – don't forget.
 - iv. Big issue is can't keep getting SOAR if benefit ends – cut admin costs, can't afford to do it. But this will be #1 priority if can find funding. That is why we need to have a community connection.
 - b. MKS – Not just DWS's responsibility – we as community partners, also need to help fill this stopgap.
 - c. Helen – we want to get into the employment plan with these people and not have SSI/SSDI be the final goal.
 - d. Karen – tried in the past, but all declined, but issue was staffing – costs associated with this.
 - e. Helen – LDS church humanitarian services.
 - f. MKS – can we have a GA working group to try and find community resources to do this?
 - g. Helen – Jeff Webster is involved in a lot of the homeless committees. Will have him call Melissa.
 - h. Karen – to include homeless community, advocacy community, service provider community.
 - i. George – broader discussion idea reminded him that part of the discussion in the remodel was about the concept of GA and the stigma. If going to have a broader discussion – include a proactive approach, anticipating stigma, and what could happen if one time funding is not renewed. Group to come forward with a proposal.

b. TANF Dollars Being Used for Temporary Rental Assistance and Case Mangement – was some discussion on this last month, just want an update on how things are going.

- c. Transient Assistance Fund- Yvette said at the last meeting that she will get us the procedures for how they handle this across the state.
- d. Eligibility Services Division – We talked about getting the graphic of the new team, is this available?
- e. DWS Audit – update ----- MOVE TO NEXT MONTH

2:55 Unemployment Insurance

- a. Status of bill on Alternative Base Period

Recommendation is to not to make it effective until Aug 2011. Will get the money as soon as it's passed in law.

- b. Part-time worker provision

November Interim calendar. Sen. Robles to sponsor.

- c. Social Security Offsets and Unemployment Insurance

SSA offsets and UI – EAC won't meet before that. Vote of EAC was 5 to 5. \$62 mill Reed Act distribution to pay for offsets. Advisory council decided half for employers and half for claimants. Thought could charge benefits against Reed Act distribution, extended past sunset and memorialized charge back provision – Feds said no, has to be charged back to employers, so changed it. Made it as a temporary deal, to fund for 3 years, but cost less than anticipated gave it an extra 3 years. Paying out over \$500 mill in state UI benefits right now, hard time on employers, taking in \$140 mill – trust fund – predicted in 2 years will go from \$600 mill to \$120 mill in two years, and taxes are going to rise rapidly in 2011. Employers didn't want to raise taxes on employers at this point and time. Public about evenly split. Had an agreement, spent the money. Council very vocal about this. (Jim, Tom, Rich Thorn). Constitutionally questionable if can do 100% offset. UT supreme court. Board of Review refused to argue merits of supreme court case. Have 45 days to get it to appellate court.

Art Hunsaker wanted some of the advisory council there who was in favor of it. Tony Montano maybe – Dan Pay have all been asked.

Lincoln – hear discussions about moving DOH departments to DWS.

Mike Richardson - Kristen's position is that she is working with DOH on a united response back. She is engaged in the discussion.

3:10 TANF/ARRA Dollars (Mike Richardson)

ARRA Stimulus Grants - Utah's collaborative proposals/concepts

- TANF just a reimbursement, additional money, but not grants or anything like that. No ARRA grants in TANF.
- Handouts for Grants. – targeted at energy, renewable energy
 - o Pathways Out of Poverty
 - Communities to be served is very, very defined. Geographic areas with a poverty rate of 15% or more. Western Salt Lake and part of Provo.
 - Require approval of State Workforce Board – Letter of Support
 - Have 3 applications are aware of – gonna screen them tomorrow
 - Skilled competency training and job placement for green energy jobs –

- SLCC and SL school district.
 - Phoenix project – Provo – MATC – job training through ATC
 - Building employment opportunities – CEU and San Juan UBAOC and Ute and Navajo tribes.
 - Gonna support all of them because different geographical regions.
- Health Care Sector
 - One application – energy – making a very good case – out of Milford area.
 - Nursing, allied health, LTC and health info technology.
 - Also some grants available under HHS for health info tech.
 - SLCC – put together a group with lots of partners including health care industry, train 140 customers
 - U of U college of nursing – includes CEU and SLCC – train 300
 - Northern UT Occupation partnership – Weber State and a couple of ATCs and job corps, covers 5 counties. – targeting displaced auto workers from Auto Leaf. Nurse, paramedics and health info tech. 1300 indivs served.
 - Affordable nursing training – UVU and MATC – asking for more info on that.
 - Strengthening Opportunities and health care needs – Uintah Basin, ATCs, goes across 7 counties.
 - Dixie state college and WATC - \$500,000 all they are asking for.
- Meeting the needs for skilled workers
 - Consortium of wind farm construction companies
- State Energy Sector Strategy Grant
 - SLCC

These are the grants DWS is working on, will be reviewing tomorrow and deciding which ones to submit. Mostly private sector.

3:20 DWS Budget (Bill Greer)

Bill – were able to get through FY09 in the black, were projecting a deficit, but addressed the budget issues, and assistance from outside groups, have received stimulus funds for assistance, though most of it is gone, very little for admin or eligibility, have had to eat those additional costs where had significant increases in the caseload.

FY10 plan – admin savings, rest of department reorg, and continue MOUs. Still being asked by leg why they HAVE so much money and didn't end up in the red, having to justify that. FS and Medicaid require 50/50 state match, and PCN. Would like to get back child care matching funds. TANF up for reauthorization. TANF Reauth may reduce amount of \$\$\$ available.

Real challenge is FY 2011 – have about \$7 mill of 1 time funding for FY10 which will go away in 2011 (that is a 10% reduction right off the bat, before do the 1, 3 and 5%). Only have \$66 million in state funds, get a lot of federal dollars – get a lot of bang for the buck. Not even counting medicaid payments that go through DOH. A lot of money DWS has some impact on.

Only get medicaid eligibility money from DOH – \$1.6-1.8 bill goes through DOH to pay benefits.

MKS – can we have a better partnership during the leg session? Have this on another agenda before session and meet weekly during the session.

Bill – submitting budgets to gov in September, til gov's budget come out, that is what we can promote.

Doing everything we can to maximize TANF MOEs, but holding the budget flat is hard – starts off with a 10% reduction right of the bat. A lot is tied up in MOE – can't reduce this for TANF and ChildCare. FS and Medicaid are entitlement programs, have to do them. Haven't reduced staff, hired 50 new people, but have a few less people. (Add'l people also hired for UI). That has an impact on the workload.

Kris – Under Huntsman, was word coming out of Gov's office more restricted than prior administrations.

Bill – under Herbert – budget guidelines same as last year, and 1,3, and 5% budget reduction scenarios (last year was up to 15%). Time really is now to work with our legislator – put a face on the activities of DWS – makes this easier later!!!! Don't want a nameless, faceless population. Put the human face on it.

3:35 Legislative Priorities (Mike Richardson)

Draft Bill that implements changes in eligibility and for the other half restructure – how is this coming along?

Trying not to do a change in statute if at all possible, but decision has not been made yet.

Number of bills going to run is really really small at this point. Two on Sept. Interim Agenda – SSA offset and ABP UI only.

Helen – technical change – clarified with TANF that people that are underage (very few on TANF) – have always allowed them to go to school and work or go to school or work, TANF requires to go to school.

MKS – Incentives for business that set up training programs for low-income people.

Derek Miller new exec director of GOED, chambers, downtown alliance. – Call Helen if have any questions, or connect to right person.

-- Study – manpower demonstration research corp – san fran and DC – model where take companies who employ FS and TANF customers and do economic dev with them.

3:45 Demand Driven Approach to Talent and Workforce Development

In June, Greg Gardner presented the "demand driven" approach to "talent and workforce development". According to DWS' timeline this is supposed to be finalized in September. What is the outcome? How does DWS plan to monitor for effectiveness and satisfaction of businesses and job seekers? (Karen Silver) – MOVE TO NEXT MONTH

Topics Welcome!

We find these meetings are most productive when topics are generated by the community. Please email ideas for topics to melissa@utahcap.org or lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org. Thanks.