

Email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.



MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, August 4th

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Department of Workforce Service

1385 S. State Street, Room 157, Salt Lake City

Conference Call-in Number: 1-866-456-0016

Access Code: *2658942* (be sure to hit * before and after)

DWS:

1:00 Welcome and Introductions

1:05 Follow Up Items:

Wait times - last month we discussed that wait times are still hovering around 45 minutes and that people are sometimes getting dropped from the phone connection or leaving messages and not being called back. Has this improved? What is DWS doing to address this?

eRep - last month it was brought up that eRep had been sending out case closure letters to people erroneously. Has this been fixed?

WDD transition - How is it going? What changes should we expect to see?

UI Training for Frontline Staff - last month we noted a need for frontline staff to have a better understanding of Unemployment Insurance. Plans were made to train staff in UI, how is that going?

Utah's Back to Work Initiative - The program was set to launch July 1st. How is it going? How many people have been placed? How many businesses participating?

1:25 General Assistance Open Enrollment

General Assistance open enrollment was July 13th, 14th & 15th. How did it go? How many applications were received? Provide a general update on what GA looks like right now.

1:35 TANF Emergency Funds

TANF Emergency Funds are set to expire Sept. 30th. What programs will be affected by their expiration?

1:45 Email Access through E-Query (MyCase)

An email access point through eQuery was set to launch on August 2nd. How did it go? What have you seen so far?

1:50 Unemployment Insurance

UI Trust Fund - Update on the health of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. Have any plans been made regarding actions to undertake to prevent insolvency?

Federal Extension of Unemployment Benefits - Congress finally passed another extension of unemployment compensation on July 22nd, after 50 days of no extensions. How is DWS dealing with the influx of applications? Will the benefits be paid retroactively? Does DWS expect another extension to go through at the end of November when this extension expires?

Unemployment - Update on the unemployment situation in Utah. The national unemployment rate is declining, are we seeing signs of this at the state level?

What are the numbers looking like for new or continued applications?

Joint DWS/DOH Topic

2:00 Immigration Issues

The List - DWS responded quickly to the dissemination of private information of its clients and is actively pursuing plans to better safeguard data. There is concern among the advocacy community regarding the internal culture of DWS where such actions were able to take place. The release of the list and the fact that the recent changes to the food stamp rule came from frontline workers that were concerned about immigrant applications may be indicative of some cultural sensitivity issues at DWS and the possibility of some DWS offices creating a hostile environment for Latino applicants. Some of the questions we hope to discuss are:

1. What happened? How did it happen? What impacts have DWS and DOH seen thus far?
2. How does the department protect confidential data? What type of training are employees given about privacy? What type of cultural competency training do staff participate in? Does DWS have a comprehensive plan to address issues of cultural sensitivity among its workers?
3. How are DWS and DOH reaching out to mixed status and minority households to help rebuild trust? What things should DWS/DOH be doing?

Click [HERE](#) to see copies of the letter DWS sent to customers whose names were on the list.

3:00 Provider Payment reform ideas for Medicaid (Michael Hales)

Continuing the discussion from last month, we will look at different Medicaid payment model demonstration projects currently being discussed by state health reform. There is a belief that current fee-for-service payment models create incentives that encourage providing unnecessary care and discourage controlling costs. Moving to risk based payment models like managed care plans, accountable care organizations, and global payments have the potential to change these incentives. These risk-based payment models work by paying a predetermined amount per client to an entity that agrees to manage the client's care. Because the provider or organization must work within a set budget to provide care to the patient, they have incentives (often financial) to provide patients with quality care in the most cost-effective manner possible.

This month we will begin to try understand the differences, advantages, and disadvantages of these different payment methodologies.

For more information about accountable care organizations, please read a recent Robert Wood Johnson Foundation issue brief: [Can Accountable Care Organizations Improve the Value of Health Care by Solving the Cost and Quality Quandaries?](#)

3:30 2010 Community Partners Legislative Priorities (All)

At past meetings the Department of Health and the Department of Workforce Services suggested that it would help with the speed and accuracy of fiscal notes if the departments were made aware of legislative priorities early on. We think this is good advice. In an effort to follow it, we have added this as a recurring agenda item. Please share with the department ideas that you may want to pursue in the 2011, or future, legislative sessions.

Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and Related documents found at: <http://caputah.org/public/advocate-meetings.php>

Topics Welcome!

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

You are receiving this email because you signed up for updates from Community Action Partnership of Utah.

[Unsubscribe melissa@caputah.org from this list](#) | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)

Our mailing address is:
Community Action Partnership of Utah
230 South 500 West
Suite 260
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2009 Community Action Partnership of Utah All rights reserved.

