
MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, May 6th
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 New CHIP Mental Health Parity Requirement and CHIP Benefit Changes (Nate Checketts)

The Children Health Insurance Reauthorization Act guarantees mental health parity in CHIP. This means that states must provide the same level of health benefits in CHIP as they provide for physical health benefits. Utah's current CHIP program falls short of complying with this new federal requirement: the CHIP mental health benefit has higher co-pays for services and, unlike the physical health benefit, limits the number of hospital inpatient mental health days a beneficiary may have.

Utah is considering two options to address this issue:

1. Utah can create parity between mental and physical health services by reducing mental health co-pays, eliminating the mental health hospital stay cap; to maintain budget neutrality, the state can also introduce a deductible in CHIP's drug benefit plan;
 2. To avoid a drug benefit deductible, the state can raise co-pays on physical health services to current mental service co-pay levels.
- Are there other options Utah should be considering to create mental health parity?
 - What impact would increased copays and deductibles have on family cost sharing?

1:40 New CHIPRA (Nate Checketts)

CHIPRA made many changes in how states CHIP programs can operate. Last month, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services provided [new CHIPRA guidance](#) to state health departments (see [Guidance](#)). You can read more about changes in CHIPRA here:

<http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/chipra/chipra-101-overview.pdf>

- What changes is Utah considering given this guidance?
- Are there other opportunity under CHIPRA that Utah should be considering?

DWS/Work Supports:

2:30 Welcome and Introductions

2:35 Follow-up items

1. Emergency Assistance and how DWS determines eligibility

How are eligibility determinations made if a household includes illegals? How does DWS interpret the harboring piece? What are the different programs' policies?

- Advocates are still hearing that some workers are telling families with undocumented members that no one is eligible. Karen Silver had it reported from the South County office in March. What is DWS doing to assure workers are not doing this? Is anyone looking at denied applications to see if there is a pattern of denials for this reason? Would DWS be willing to check this out?

2. HB 218

What is the timeline for rulemaking for FEP benefits now that HB218 has passed? How soon is DWS going to do rules about FEP cash payment amounts? (Karen Silver)

2:55 Status of DWS' Stimulus Plan and Legislative Priorities (Mike Richardson)

Requests have been made to find out what the status is of the DWS ARRA money plans? How can advocates be involved? When does the final plan have to be to the feds? (Karen Silver)

3:05 Organizational Restructuring (George Angerbauer)

DWS is in the process of streamlining all of their eligibility workers into one department called the Eligibility Services Division (ESD).

3:15 Update on Governor's 21st Century Workforce Initiative (George Angerbauer)

What is the status? Have plans been made for implementation? For responding to and incorporating public comment?

3:25 General Assistance Redesign (Helen Thatcher)

Due to continued loss of funding and resistance in the legislature, DWS is going to take a fresh look at the General Assistance program and make some structural changes.

3:40 Efforts Taken to Address Issues Surrounding Interpretation of SB81 (Diane Lovell and Debbie Herr)

3:45 Drug Testing of TANF Participants (Melissa Smith and Karen Silver)

One of the study items assigned to the Workforce Services and Community and Economic Development Interim Committee is "Drug Testing of Welfare Recipients – to study whether to require welfare recipients to periodically undergo a drug test." Several advocates are doing research on the issue, but we would like to see what DWS has planned regarding this item.

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.