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## MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, July 1, 2009  
**Time:** 1:00 – 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Department of Workforce Services  
Room 157-A  
1385 S. State Street  
Salt Lake City

**Conference Call-in Number: 1-866-456-0016**  
**Access Code: \*2658942\* (be sure to hit \* before and after code)**

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### DOH/Health:

#### **1:00 Welcome and Introductions**

#### **1:05 Utah Medicaid's Medicaid Asset Test (Michael Hales)**

Discussion on the pros and cons of removing the Medicaid asset test.

To ensure that it serves those who are truly in need, Medicaid is a means based entitlement program. Utah determines a family's means using two criteria: income and assets. The income standard is fairly straightforward: as long as household income falls under the limit for a given eligibility category, the standard is met. The second test, the asset test, however, is much less popular among states. Only two states continue use the asset test when determining eligibility for children.

For more information about the asset test, please read UHPP's position paper, [Remove Utah's Medicaid Asset Test: Eliminating Barriers to Self Sufficiency](#)

#### **2:10 Update on RWJF Maximizing Enrollment For Kids**

The Maximizing Enrollment for Kids Grant aims to help states increase enrollment and retrenching of eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP and establish and promote best practices among states. Utah was awarded this grant earlier this year. Over the summer, RWJ has been evaluating the state's current program and will soon be recommending policy changes to improve Utah's enrollment and retention in CHIP, UPP and Medicaid.

The Department will provide an update on the status of the grant.

For more information about the grant please visit: [www.maxenroll.org](http://www.maxenroll.org)

## DWS/Work Supports:

### 2:30 Welcome and Introductions

#### Follow-up Items

### 2:35 GA Redesign Update

**Jeff Webster:** Tough to redesign program – will limit the times to 12 months in a 60 month period for long-term disabled (will work with SOAR model) – real good outlook that will be successful with this population, SOAR has been very successful. Central, North and Mountainland using the model. Short-term track (“impairment”) limit changed – from 30 days to 60 days, and will have impairment less than a year, 6 months in a 12 month period.

62% of cases pursuing long-term disability, 38% on short-term track. Changes go into effect on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.

- plans for transitions, have notices gone out? Letters of explanation sent to all GA members to notify them of changes, etc. Went out on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Letters also went out to customers who would be effected by changes and have cases closed as well. Offering resource lists, etc., to help them get other help. Attempting to meet with all customers that are going to be put off the program in person, is hard, but making house visits, etc.
- rural areas that only have PAs or NPs – current policy allows health care providers with credentials and licensing – APRN, PA, MD, Mental Health provider – all are already acceptable under current policy – not changing.
- Legislature’s response – Rep. Morley on steering group and he is pleased with direction. Will get support from certain parts of the legislature on that, will be those that push back on it.
- MOU’s and invoicing – work specifically with doctors and they would understand program and the new form. Currently the form they use is for all programs – now have Form I GA. Workgroup wanted a group of physicians to refer directly, but weren’t able to pull it together in the timeline – goal is to get this started in October. Will be sending out letters to doctors with information about new form and new program and how will coordinate.
- Can DWS show us the budget back-up that demonstrates the savings that will be achieved by making these changes? Forecasts – budget sheet given. Does not include costs for WTE for July. Caseloads will decrease a bit each month as the 6 and 12 month limits go into effect. Will have to watch budget very, very closely. There are some unknowns in the process. Not having to come in on monthly basis or have employment plan may result in more people coming in, so will be carefully watching the caseload on a monthly basis. Hoping not have to get to a point of waiting list or open/closed enrollment. Really don’t want to do that, so keeping a close eye.  
-Bill Tibbits – what is this regional cost/admin costs? Employees, pacmis, erp, salaries; but is NOT case management. It’s forms, postage, etc., true administrative costs.
- When will DWS initiate rulemaking? Does DWS intend on implementing these changes through emergency rulemaking? Rule is being refined, will be getting those out effective July 31<sup>st</sup>, public comment Aug 15 – Sep 15<sup>th</sup>. Emergency and regular rule will go out at the same time.
  - Karen Silver question: Can DWS send out letters and put program into effect before Rule is released and public comment?

- Helen – will look into it.
- WTE – Jeff Webster – didn't ask regions about WTE, notice that went out offered services to the WTE people – employment counselor services. Helen – best thing can do is to try and get them job searching intensely.

## **2:45 WIA Stimulus Plan**

- Update on Partner's Meeting and next steps.

Mike Richardson --- A lot of the grant money is energy. Want to get the word out to everyone in Utah who could benefit from these dollars. A lot of concern regarding if energy jobs will be there at the end of the training.

Jan – will we need to get executive appropriations approval on grant applications.

Pathways out of poverty only for PUMAs – only 5 areas in the state. (superPuma). Sevier County, two parts of salt lake, parts of Weber and Davis.

Sheila – are these for training individuals? Mike – yes, that is the intent – to move people with skill sets into energy industry.

State Workforce Council meeting – will be discussing this on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **2:55 Child Care for Summer Youth Program (Karen Silver)**

- Is child care offered for the summer youth program? If not, what are plans to address this?

Internship program is not a wage program, doesn't pay taxes, so doesn't fit supported work eligibility criteria. In WIA do have supportive services that can be child care (only 7 people using this right now). This can be used for bus tickets, books, etc.

Karen – can you check out the FEP youth program and if child care.

Helen – can get child care through the WIA dollars, but is limited, so may not be enough to cover it for all of them.

Melissa – what if internship for child care and they work with the kids.

Have capacity for 716 youth in summer youth program, have 702 and well over 200 are on waiting list (pending). Will have no money for second year.

## **3:05 Drug Testing of TANF Recipients**

- quick overview of Interim Session
- what has DWS heard since session?

Update on what happened at Interim – seemed to be a successful hearing, though there is a lot of misconceptions about TANF.

Helen – TANF/FEP is about helping people get connected to work, issue has to be addressed, and that is how you strengthen families, legislature bought it in the past.

Sheila – the legislators need to be reminded. (Doug Wright – KSL).

Campaign to educate legislature and public on the end of welfare and what TANF is.

**3:15 Possibility of Adding a Definition to Hardship for FEP Extensions.** (Karen Silver)

For those who have timed out of FEP and have worked but lost their jobs because of the economic downturn & don't qualify for UI. This could compensate somewhat for the Employer's Council refusing to give help to part-time workers.

Helen – we are going to do it. We have worked on this. Susan is working on a rule. For people who have used their time limits and don't have FEP available to them anymore, will do an extension if you have reached your 36-month time limit, will be eligible to apply for new extension if been laid off since Jan. 1, 2008, had to be laid off, not fired, due to economic downturn. You are on an extension, but have same requirements and responsibilities of the FEP. Time ticking against federal clock. Initially will set up first one to run through Dec. 31, 2010, to really make it an economic downturn extension program.

**3:25 Position of Intervention Specialist.** (Karen Silver)

How helpful has it been? What is the return on investment? Is GA going to have an intervention specialist for those 400 people no longer eligible? It seems like it would be helpful, as we know these folks are very vulnerable.

Karen – 2002 SRI said continuing the pilot of intervention specialist. Had department seen it to be a good return on investment and has it impacted people's lives?

Helen - Has one person statewide, face-to-face on Wasatch front, otherwise phone. Sends out letters, resource lists, criteria for extensions. She's bilingual (Spanish/English). Has been doing it a long time, part of the social work unit. Return on investment for customers is invaluable. She advocates hard for people through the extension process. Have no resources to have it for GA, but are trying to do face-to-face for those clients.

**3:35 Legislative Priorities** (Mike Richardson)

Kristen will be coming in with a draft bill in Aug to implement changes in eligibility. If Kristen has made decisions on other half restructure, that will be there too. Introducing in August.

**3:45 Audit of DWS**

Executive Appropriations last month is requesting an audit of DWS finances. What will the departments strategy be on this?

Dan Schuring (DWS Financial Manager) –

Two Audits:

- 1- At end of session leg auditors asked to look at Medicaid eligibility costs, then broadened to all of Medicaid, DWS only handles eligibility determination part of that. Looking at cost of Medicaid and DOH finances, how they are doing not handling eligibility. DOH indicated eligibility costs from DWS are higher than expected. DOH cost allocation system was very different, so don't even really know what their costs mean, like comparing oranges to apples.
- 2- Thorough budget review of entire dept (DWS). Leg fiscal analysts office does this. Looking at it from a strictly financial perspective. Try to do this on an annual basis of at one agency or subdivision. Try to determine if there are ways they can budget things better. Everything is on the plate. Understand the other audit is going on regarding Medicaid, so are sharing information. Historically has been a bit of tension between administrative branch and legislative branch regarding how they budget at DWS. DWS structures budget on structure of department (by division, region). Doesn't make sense for them to budget by program. Legislature wants to see budget and expenses by program. This leads to some frustration because not able to provide ad hoc reports in a timely manner because don't account for things in same manner. Hoping result will help them understand why DWS budgets the way they do,

instead of forcing them to do it the way the legislature wants. Would like recommendations to get building blocks next budget go around.

Already had meeting with folks from legislative fiscal analyst office – sentiment from them was not negative in any sense of the word. Tension with legislature.

Issue of education – legislature not understanding what DWS does and the programs and how they operate. Dan thinks will be good because legislature will have a better understanding of DWS.

Mike – if have legislators that are skeptical of DWS, let Mike know and he will let Kristen know to try and talk to these people.

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](mailto:melissa@utahcap.org) (DWS topics) or [lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org](mailto:lincoln@healthpolicyproject.org) (Health topics). Thanks.