

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BUDGET COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
JUNE 12, 2006

Chairman Krauter, members of the committee, I am Maggie Anderson, Director of Medical Services for the Department of Human Services. I appear before you to provide information regarding enrollment statistics and costs for the Healthy Steps Program.

2005 Senate Bill 2159 allowed the Department to adopt interim final rules to implement any changes necessary to simplify and align eligibility requirements of the medical assistance program and the children's health insurance program and to allow for an efficient transition of cases into the Vision system.

After the Department's appropriation bill (2005 House Bill 1012) crossed to the Senate, we completed an impact analysis of the simplification and alignment changes. At the time, based on the number of children enrolled in Medicaid with a high Recipient Liability, we expected the number of children enrolled in SCHIP to increase. The Senate Appropriations Committee added funding to cover an additional 620 children.

What we did not know at the time was the impact of the outreach efforts conducted by Dakota Medical Foundation, through the Covering Kids and Families Grant. These outreach efforts supported staff to conduct education and enrollment clinics and financed a position to answer the toll-free 1-877-KIDS-NOW telephone line "live". The combination of these activities has resulted in a current enrollment of 3,547 children. This is an increase of 1,127 children since the beginning of the Biennium, and is 576 more children than the 2971 used to calculate the appropriation. We are seeing no specific trend with regard to SCHIP enrollment.

The current premium is \$181.71 per non-Native American child, and \$ 183.35 per Native American child. Based on the current enrollment and premium, our expected expenditures for SCHIP for the Biennium are \$14.9 million. This is \$2.8 million (\$.7 million General Funds) more than the appropriation of \$12.1 million.

I would be happy to respond to any questions.