

Testimony
Department of Human Services
Health Care Reform Review Committee
Representative George Keiser, Chairman
January 15, 2014

Chairman Keiser, members of the Health Care Reform Review Committee, I am Jenny Witham, Director of Information Technology Services for the Department of Human Services (DHS). I appear before you to provide an update on the status of the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) portions of the eligibility system modernization project.

The construction of the required "system to system" interactions between the state eligibility determination system and the Federal Facilitated Marketplace (FFM) has been completed. All interactions have been successfully tested with the FFM with the exception of the account transfer function, which has been delayed due to issues with the FFM readiness. The FFM was projecting to have this functionality in place by early December, but as of today, it is still not operational. We have been receiving account transfers through a temporary mechanism (flat file), but have had some issues with data quality. We have been working through these issues with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and anticipate when the account transfer function is fully operational; this process will be less cumbersome.

The new DHS client portal is currently under construction. Once the portal is complete, individuals will be able to apply for health coverage using the new streamlined application process. Until then, DHS is accepting client applications through both electronic and paper forms. The capability is in place to process these applications, send notices to

the clients, and if the client is determined to be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage, send the client enrollment information to the appropriate carrier or the Medicaid Management Information System.

We have successfully completed the first two of three CMS required project reviews. The final review will take place after the Affordable Care Act functionality of the eligibility system replacement is in production. We are projecting this to take place during the third quarter of 2014. Until then, DHS will continue to utilize the assistance of a contractor, along with county eligibility staff to support the timely processing of applications.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to address them at this time.