

**Department of Human Services
Tribal and State Relations Committee
Representative Dennis Johnson, Chairman
May 29, 2014**

Chairman Johnson, members of the Tribal and State Relations Committee, I am Julie Schwab, Director of Medical Services for the Department of Human Services (Department). I appear before you to provide an update on the implementation of Medicaid Expansion.

Medicaid Expansion

Enrollment

As of May 2014, approximately 7,800 individuals were enrolled for coverage in the North Dakota Medicaid expansion. Our data shows that most enrollees are childless adults (there are some adults with dependent children), slightly over half of the expansion enrollees are female (52%), a little more than half (56%) are ages 19-44, and the majority (69%) are rural (urban covering only Burleigh and Cass counties). These trends have remained stable since enrollment began in January 2014. Enrollment has continued to grow steadily.

We are not able to report the ethnic and racial makeup of the Expansion population as the contingency eligibility system does not capture this information. There is a question on the eligibility application which asks the applicant if they are American Indian and once the system is operational, we will be able to report this information.

Coverage

We do not have any reported difficulties relating to coverage for American Indians. We have not had any complaints that covered services have been denied or that there have been payment issues related to IHS.

Outreach

The Department continues to collaborate with the Indian Affairs Commission to ensure eligible American Indians are aware of the expanded coverage and are being encouraged to apply. On May 12, 2014, the Department met with Dr. Don Warne, Scot Davis, Linda Frizzell, and Brad Hawk to discuss Medicaid expansion outreach for the American Indian population. The discussion included suggestions related to improving native enrollment, such as having native representatives at some medical facilities to assist in completing applications and providing information.

This concludes my testimony and I would address any questions that you may have.