

**Department of Human Services
Interim Health Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chair
January 7, 2016**

Chairman Lee, members of the Interim Health Services Committee, I am Jodi Hulm, Administrator of the Health Tracks and Healthy Steps programs with the Medical Services Division for the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide information on the number of dentists enrolled in Medicaid and Healthy Steps, as well as information on the outcomes report by the recipient of the Department's dental loan program.

Medicaid and CHIP Providers

Medicaid has 331 dental providers enrolled in North Dakota Health Enterprise Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). North Dakota Healthy Steps program currently has 289 dental providers enrolled with Delta Dental of Minnesota.

The Department implemented MMIS on October 5, 2015. With the MMIS, individual practitioners are enrolled, including dentists, where in the past, entities were often enrolled at the organizational level. Over time, having this individual practitioner data will allow the Department to provide more detailed information on the number of clients receiving services, by practitioner. However, at this time, accurate claims payment trend information is not available. Some practitioners, including dentists, have encountered challenges with claims submissions and payments. Because the system has only been in production three months and because some practitioners have not been able to submit all of their claims, the claims data is underreported at this time. By next summer the Department

expects to have a trend line of claims payment information that can be shared with the committee.

Non-Profit Clinic Dental Access Project

To increase access to dental services for Medicaid and Healthy Steps enrollees, in 2012, the Department developed the Non-Profit Clinic Dental Access Project. The project awards funds to support the recruitment of additional dentists to serve in non-profit dental clinics.

By meeting certain metrics established by the non-profit entity itself and approved by the Department relative to serving Medicaid and CHIP recipients, a non-profit entity can qualify. A facility would be eligible for funding for a part-time dentist (each dentist would receive up to \$10,000 per year, for a maximum of \$30,000 for three years) or a full time dentist (a maximum of \$60,000). The payments are sent directly to the financial institution of the dentist after the Department’s approval of the entity meeting the threshold requirements.

Bridging the Dental Gap was awarded the funding and their new dentist started on July 1, 2013. This has increased their outreach efforts to the Medicaid and CHIP population and expanded their service area from a 50-mile radius to a 100 mile radius from the city of Bismarck. Bridging the Dental Gap serves as a safety net clinic allowing those without coverage to pay on a sliding fee scale, by adding the new dentist and expanding their service area they have been serving an increasing number of North Dakota residents (see table below).

State Fiscal Year	Average Appointments	Medicaid Appointments
2013	480	236
2014	526	266
2015	576	253

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.