

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE BUDGET COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

OCTOBER 4, 2005

Chairman Dever, 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 the status of activities of the prescription drug monitoring workgroup and the status of the Department's amendment to the North Dakota Medicaid state plan allowing the disregard of assets for individuals owning long-term care insurance policies. In addition, I will provide brief update on the Department's implementation of provisions in House Bill 1216.

### Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The Department hosted a meeting on August 24, 2005 of the Workgroup identified to work on the potential implementation of a Prescription Drug monitoring program. Harvey Hanel, PharmD, will serve as the chairperson and Howard Anderson, RPh will serve as the vice-chair. At this time, the federal grant announcement has not been made. Historically, the announcement is made at the end of November.

The Department released a Request For Information (RFI) to vendors and received information from five vendors. The chair, vice-chair and the Department have been visiting with vendors to see software demonstrations, as well as capabilities and expectations.

The next meeting will be held in early December. In anticipation of the federal grant announcement, a grant application will be drafted by the time of the December work group meeting. In addition, a Request For Proposal (RFP) will

also be drafted by the December meeting. If approved for the grant, the RFP will be released.

### **Amendment to North Dakota Medicaid State Plan – Asset Disregard**

Current federal law does not allow states (other than the original four states) to use federal Medicaid dollars to implement a policy allowing for the disregard of assets for individuals owning long-term care insurance policies. A change to this law, however, is currently being considered at the Federal level. The Federal officials have not provided a timeline for when the law change will be implemented.

The Department has not submitted a state plan amendment at this time because the current law would not allow approval of the amendment. We will continue to watch this issue closely and will pursue the amendment, once allowed by Federal law.

### **2005 House Bill 1216 (Provider Appeals)**

House Bill 1216 directed the Department to establish a Provider Appeals process. The process would apply based on the Department denying payment or reducing the level of service payment. The Department has prepared both a summary document to outline the process for the appeals and a one-page form for the provider to complete, as a formal request for an appeal. The summary document and the Provider Appeal request form are included as attachments to this testimony and can be found on the Department's Web site. Effective August 1, 2005, appeals can be submitted to the Department. The Web site URL is: <http://www.state.nd.us/humanservices/services/medicalserv/medicaid/online-forms.html>, and is designated as state form SFN 168.

I would be happy to respond to any questions that you may have.