

**Department of Human Services
Health Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chair
August 18, 2015**

Chairman Lee, members of the Health Services Committee, I am Maggie Anderson, Executive Director of the Department of Human Services (Department). I am here today to provide testimony on the study of dental services in the state, Senate Resolution 4004.

Programs

The Medical Services Division currently administers two programs in which dental services are covered: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (Healthy Steps). The Medicaid programs provide health care coverage for qualifying families and children, pregnant women, the elderly disabled, and adults under age 65 with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. Healthy Steps provides health care coverage for children up to age 19 with incomes up to 175% of the federal poverty level.

Services

The Medicaid dental program for children covers preventive services such as dental exams and cleanings twice a year. Medicaid will also pay for sealants on each tooth and fluoride varnish twice a year, which can be applied by a variety of providers: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses under the direct supervision of a physician, Registered Dental Hygienist or Registered Dental Assistant under the direct or general supervision of a licensed dentist.

Treatment services such as fillings, porcelain crowns, root canals and extractions are covered. Fillings for children including emergency dental services are also covered.

The traditional Medicaid program provides dental coverage for adults including preventive services such as a dental exam and cleaning once a year in addition to the application of fluoride varnish when placed by a dentist. Treatment services such as fillings, porcelain crowns on anterior teeth and stainless steel crowns on posterior teeth, root canals and extractions are also covered for adults. Dentures are covered once every five years. Emergency services are also covered for adults.

The Medicaid Expansion program provides dental services for individuals 19 and 20 years of age, but does not provide adult dental services.

Healthy Steps is under contract with Delta Dental of Minnesota to provide dental services to children eligible for this program. Oral exams are covered twice a year and cleaning is available four times a year. Sealants are also available and fluoride varnish is also available two times per year.

Healthy Steps also covers fillings, porcelain crowns, root canals, orthodontia, extractions and dentures.

Orthodontia

Orthodontia is covered by both Medicaid and Healthy Steps for children. In order for a child to obtain orthodontia they must have a screening by either a dentist if the child is on Healthy Steps or a nurse if the child is Medicaid. In order for the child to be referred to an orthodontist they must meet certain criteria. Once the orthodontist sees the child they submit a prior authorization and the screening results in order to obtain approval.

<u>Medicaid Children</u>	<u>Medicaid Adults (Traditional)</u>	<u>Healthy Steps</u> (children up to 19)
Diagnostic		
Oral Exam – 2 per year	Oral Exam – 1 per year	Oral Exam – 2 per year
Preventative		
Cleaning – 2 per year	Cleaning – 1 per year	Cleaning – 4 per year
Sealants		Sealants
Fluoride Varnish – 2 per year	Fluoride Varnish only if done by a dentist	Fluoride Varnish – 2 per year
Restorative		
Amalgam (filling)	Amalgam (filling)	Amalgam (filling)
Crown –requires Prior authorization	Crown –requires Prior authorization	Crown –requires Prior authorization
Root Canal – requires prior authorization	Root Canal- requires prior authorization	Root Canal
Orthodontia – requires screening and prior authorization		Orthodontia – requires screening and prior authorization
Dentures – 1 every 5 years	Dentures – 1 every 5 years	Dentures – 1 every 5 years
Extractions	Extractions	Extractions

Link to the Medicaid provider manual:

<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/docs/dental-manual.pdf>

Rural Areas and Access

Federally Qualified Health Centers that offer dental services are located in Turtle Lake, Fargo, Moorhead, Minot and Grand Forks and provide dental services to Medicaid and Healthy Steps individuals. Bridging the Dental Gap is a safety net clinic located in Bismarck which provides access to dental care for underserved populations in North Dakota. Bridging the Dental Gap clinic sees patients located within a 100-mile radius of Bismarck. The Ronald McDonald Care mobile is also providing dental services to Medicaid and Healthy Steps children throughout the western

half of North Dakota. Indian Health Services (IHS) is an option for dental services.

To incentivize dental provider access, the Department developed the Non-Profit Clinic Dental Access Project. The focus of the project is to increase access to dental services for Medicaid and CHIP recipients by awarding funds to support the recruitment of additional dentists to serve in non-profit dental clinics.

By proposing Medicaid and CHIP access and outreach plans, a non-profit entity can qualify for funding to assist a dentist with school loan repayment. A non-profit dental clinic 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 funding is sent directly to the financial institution of the dentist after the Department's approval of the non-profit dental clinic meeting the threshold requirements.

Department staff also maintains information on a federal website of dental providers who accept new Medicaid and CHIP recipients. The purpose of the website is to provide a comprehensive list of providers who currently accept Medicaid and CHIP recipients. The website is www.insurekidsnow.gov.

North Dakota Health Tracks is a free, preventive health program for Medicaid eligible children 0-21 years of age. The program emphasizes prevention and primary care, including working to assure the availability and accessibility of required health care resources, including dental. Dental screenings are part of the process of a Health Tracks screening. There are six Health Tracks Regional Coordinators located throughout the state, each assigned to a region. The coordinators work with local county

social service offices to generate referrals for local public health units and primary care providers and dentists.

Health Tracks will help schedule appointments for services (including dental services) and will also help with finding non-emergency transportation, if applicable, to the services.

The Department looks forward to the Committee's Dental Services Study, and staff will be available to provide information, as requested.