

**Department of Human Services  
Interim Health Services Committee  
Senator Judy Lee, Chair  
September 21, 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 (DHS/Department). I am here today to provide information on the number of dentists enrolled in Medicaid, the number of dentists enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), also known in North Dakota as "Healthy Steps"; a comparison of the state's Medicaid dental reimbursement rates to the dental reimbursement rates in surrounding states; the percentage of dentists participating in Medicaid in North Dakota; billing and reimbursement for services provided by expanded function dental assistants and dental hygienists; and the cost to adding dental services to the Medicaid Expansion program. At this time, the Department does not have information on the percentage of medical providers enrolled in Medicaid and we do not have information for a comparison to surrounding states.

**Medicaid and CHIP Dental Providers**

Medicaid has 340 dental providers enrolled in North Dakota Health Enterprise Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). The North Dakota Healthy Steps Program currently has 452 participating dentists in the North Dakota Premier Network, which may be used by Healthy Steps members at 593 different locations. A participating dentist may be available to be seen at more than one location. This number also includes bordering dentists in Minnesota that accept Healthy Steps children.

**Dental Loan Repayment Program**

Last year, the Health Department's dental loan repayment program was granted to six dentists. Of those six dentists, five of them are currently

enrolled with Medicaid, however within the last few weeks, one of them has called and asked to be disenrolled. Five of the dentists in the dental loan repayment program are also currently enrolled Healthy Steps providers.

### **Medicaid Rate Comparison**

**Attachment A** of the testimony displays the Medicaid reimbursement rates for commonly utilized dental services from North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and Wyoming.

### **Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists**

Currently, the Department does not enroll dental assistants and dental hygienists, but they can provide an array of services based on their scope of practice (fluoride varnish, prophylaxis, bitewings, etc.). These services are billed under the dentist's provider number, not directly by the dental assistant or dental hygienist. The Department reimburses the dentist directly for these services.

### **Medicaid Expansion**

According to analysis done by the Department's contracted actuary, it is estimated to cost between \$32.51 and \$40.50 per member per month to add dental services to the Medicaid Expansion benefit plan. The analysis used a similar administrative percentage that Sanford Health Plan receives for Expansion. If this was administered as a standalone dental plan, the administrative percentage would be higher.

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