

**Department of Human Services
Health Care Reform Review Committee
Representative George Keiser, Chairman
January 19, 2016**

Chairman Keiser, members of the Health Care Reform Review Committee, I am Stephanie Waloch, Medicaid Expansion Administrator for the Department of Human Services – Medical Services Division (Department). I appear before you to provide an update on North Dakota Medicaid Expansion. A representative from the Sanford Health Plan will provide an update on membership, utilization of emergency department and preventative care/screenings, the coordinated service program, and quality improvement projects. Also, Brenda Peterson, Medicaid Eligibility Policy Director for the Department, will provide an update on the Eligibility Systems Modernization Project.

Medicaid Expansion

In October 2015, the Department submitted renewal requests to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for both the 1915(b) Waiver and 1115 Waiver. These waivers have both been approved by CMS. The Medicaid 1915(b) Waiver authorizes the Department to provide Medicaid Expansion as a Managed Care Organization program allowing mandatory enrollment of individuals, including Native Americans, eligible for Medicaid Expansion into the plan offered by a private carrier (managed care organization). The Medicaid 1115 Waiver authorizes North Dakota to operate only one managed care plan in urban areas.

As of December 2015, the Medicaid Expansion enrollment was 19,499 individuals.

Update from Sanford Health Plan

At this time, a representative from Sanford Health Plan will be providing additional information about Medicaid Expansion plan utilization.

Eligibility Systems Modernization Project

During the 2015 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 2177 authorized the Department to move forward with implementing a new system to complete eligibility determinations for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and all of the Economic Assistance Programs. Implementation of this system, known as the Self-Service Portal and Consolidated Eligibility System (SPACES) will be completed in two phases.

Phase I

- Implementation scheduled for February 8, 2016, and includes Eligibility determinations for:
 - Individuals eligible for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including CHIP, and
 - Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE)
- SPACES includes a self-service portal which applicants and recipients can utilize to apply for health care coverage as well as view their eligibility information on-line.
- In preparation for the implementation of the new system, 368 county and state eligibility workers have received training.
- On January 14, information was sent out to all North Dakota hospitals about HPE relating to the process of requesting approval to make HPE eligibility determinations. Training for hospitals that are approved to make HPE eligibility determinations is scheduled for February 2, 2016.

Phase II

- Planning for Phase II will begin shortly after the implementation of Phase I. Implementation of Phase II is scheduled for mid to late 2017 and includes Eligibility determinations for:
 - Individuals in the remaining Medicaid coverage categories that were not included in Phase I (e.g. aged, blind, or disabled)
 - All Economic Assistance Programs which includes:
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
 - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - Basic Care Assistance Program (BCAP)

The implementation of SPACES will improve upon the current process which requires entering the same data into multiple systems. This will result in greater efficiency realized by county eligibility workers. It will also significantly reduce the risk of errors, while at the same time decrease processing time, which will result in more timely eligibility determinations and notifications to recipients.

This concludes the Department's testimony. Stephanie and I would address any questions that you may have.