

**Department of Human Services
Tribal and State Relations Committee
Representative Marvin E. Nelson
September 28, 2015**

Chairman Nelson, members of the Tribal and State Relations Committee, I am Stephanie Waloch, Medicaid Expansion Administrator for the Department of Human Services – Medical Services Division (Department). I appear before you to provide status of enrollment of Tribal members in Medicaid Expansion.

North Dakota Medicaid Expansion

The 2013 ND Legislative Assembly approved House Bill 1362 directing the Department to expand medical assistance as authorized in the Affordable Care Act.

The Medicaid Expansion opened the door for more adults ages 19 to 64 to have Medicaid Coverage. The Department estimated there being 20,500 potential eligible individuals for this category of Medicaid coverage. As of July 2015, the Medicaid Expansion enrollment was approximately 18,833 individuals. The enrollment data shows that most enrollees are childless adults (77%) with over half of this group ages 19 to 44.

At this time, the Department is not able to report the ethnic and racial makeup of the Expansion population. The question on the eligibility application pertaining to race is optional thus if not answered by the applicant(s), the data would not accurately reflect the ethnic and racial breakdown for the overall Medicaid Expansion population. The eligibility application does inquire whether the applicant or anyone in their family is American Indian or Alaska Native which prompts additional information to

be obtained from the household members. As this information is required to determine such things as an individual being exempt from cost sharing, it can be utilized to identify the number of American Indians or Alaska Natives enrolled with Expansion. The Department is moving forward with implementing a new eligibility system and with additional on-line and interactive eligibility application methods, we are hoping more individuals will respond to the optional racial and ethnic question on the application.

Since January 2014, we have heard from Medicaid Expansion enrollees who are now able to seek health care services with a focus on preventative or maintenance versus services of an urgent or emergent nature. American Indians eligible for coverage under the Medicaid Expansion are able to receive services at Indian Health Services or at any other provider enrolled with the Managed Care Organization (Sanford Health Plan).

The Department has and will continue to collaborate with the Indian Affairs Commission to ensure American Indians are aware of the expanded coverage and are encouraged to apply.

This concludes my testimony and I would address any questions that you may have.