



Select Committee on Efficiency in Government 62nd Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JON SONJU--Chair
EDWARD BUTTREY
MARY CAFERRO
JIM KEANE
EDWARD WALKER
DAVID WANZENRIED

HOUSE MEMBERS

MARK BLASDEL
RON EHLI
GALEN HOLLENBAUGH
PAT NOONAN
SCOTT REICHNER
KATHLEEN WILLIAMS

COMMITTEE STAFF TEAM

DAVE BOHYER, Lead Staff
DAVID NISS, Staff Attorney
DAWN FIELD, Secretary
SUE O'CONNELL, LSD, Health Care
SONJA NOWAKOWSKI, LSD, Nat'l Res.
QUINN HOLZER, LFD, Health Care
TARYN PURDY, LFD, Budgeting Process
BARBARA SMITH, LFD, Technology
LOIS STEINBECK, LFD, Health Care

MINUTES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE/MEDICAID

October 6, 2011

Room 102, State Capitol
Helena, Montana

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. To the left of each section in these minutes is a time designation indicating the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*. Once on the page for *Interim Committees*, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written minutes summary, along with the audio and video recordings, are listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. You must have Real Player to listen to the audio recording or to view the video.

Hard copies of the exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Rep. Pat Noonan -- Chair
Sen. Mary Caferro
Rep. Mark Blasdel

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED/ABSENT

Sen. Edward Walker

STAFF PRESENT

Sue O'Connell, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division,
Dawn Field, Secretary

AGENDA & VISITORS' LIST

Agenda, Attachment #1.
Visitors' list, Attachment #2.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:01 REP. NOONAN called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He noted that the meeting was being held at the request of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Montana (NAMI) to allow public providers, advocates, and others involved with mental health services an opportunity to provide comment on the regulations and statutes involved with providing services to Medicaid patients. The secretary noted the roll, SEN. WALKER was excused (ATTACHMENT #3).

PUBLIC COMMENT

- 00:02:02 **Matt Kuntz, Executive Director, NAMI Montana**, discussed NAMI Montana's three recommendations for regulation changes (EXHIBIT 1). Mr. Kuntz' handout also included Montana Medicaid Providers' recommended regulation changes.
- 00:07:38 **Dr. Michael Bütz, President, Montana Psychological Association**, commented on redundancies in Medicaid services, including billing and reimbursement rate issues; evidence-based practice versus well-established tried-and-true models that don't fit the evidence-based paradigm; the importance of an appropriate psychological evaluation and diagnosis in the treatment process; and the importance of having qualified staff and providers in order to provide safe and effective treatment.
- 00:20:54 **Rachel Lopez, licensed clinical social worker, licensed addiction counselor**, referred to written public comment submitted prior to the meeting (EXHIBIT 2). She discussed the heavy burden of paperwork and how it negatively impacts the quality of care. Ms. Lopez said that the emphasis on the paperwork, rather than the patient, has created a high turnover rate for counselors.
- 00:31:04 **Andree Deligdisch, Great Falls**, listed her professional credentials as a mental health care provider and discussed several recommendations:
- simplify the paperwork process for providers and healthcare workers;
 - simplify the Medicaid application and recertification process;
 - make it easier for the elderly to find Medicaid providers; and
 - fund prenatal, natal, and early childhood services, because there is much evidence that it results in cost savings later.
- 00:43:43 **Aart Dolman, Great Falls**, discussed his background as an academic in political science and history and a mental health advocate. Mr. Dolman discussed the quality of care differences between the United States and other countries, saying that the quality of care in the United States has deteriorated. Mr. Dolman discussed two studies he is conducting to identify improvements that can be made and predicted that if corrections are not made, the system will continue to deteriorate.
- 00:52:25 **Kathy McGowan, Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs)**, said that she agreed with much of the previous comment. She said that House Bills 130, 131, and 132, passed in 2009, have been effective because they shifted crisis services to communities and reduced spending on services at the State Hospital. Ms. McGowan discussed several areas of concern:
- differing poverty level requirements for chemical dependency and mental health groups, which creates administrative difficulties in providing co-occurring services;

- excessive admissions paperwork required of CMHCs, versus other providers, which affects access; and
- burdensome 90-day case management reviews.

Ms. McGowan said that evaluations and oversight are needed but that current demands are extreme.

01:00:32 **Charlie Briggs, Easter Seals-Goodwill, Northern Rocky Mountain region**, said he hoped that the subcommittee would outline the direction and focus areas of the subcommittee because it would allow providers and the public to be better prepared to work with the Subcommittee. He also discussed the issue of dual diagnosis and the challenges of delivering services to those clients.

01:05:38 **Jani McCall, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR), Billings**, said she fully agrees with the previous comments. Ms. McCall discussed:

- YBGR's participation in a proposal for a performance-based contracting program;
- the cumbersome and bureaucratic nature of the administrative rules process within the DPHHS;
- YBGR and other providers' frustration with the utilization review process in Montana; and
- Medicaid's limited flexibility.

01:09:44 **Jeff Folsom, A.W.A.R.E., Inc., Butte**, provided copies of his written testimony (EXHIBIT 3) and said that AWARE's goal is to help the Subcommittee identify specific and systemic changes. Mr. Folsom discussed four focus areas: efficiencies, outcomes, business principles, and access.

01:18:52 Dr. Bütz, speaking as a private citizen, offered several additional suggestions for ideas the committee could review.

Committee Questions

01:27:40 SEN. CAFERRO and Mr. Folsom discussed matters related to utilization reviews.

01:36:18 SEN. CAFERRO asked Ms. Lopez to explain some of the acronyms she used in her comments.

01:39:36 SEN. CAFERRO asked Dr. Bütz to discuss in more detail the confusion that can result when intermediary billing services are used by the psychologists and the Medicaid services providers. Dr. Bütz discussed difficulties with the billing and payment system.

01:42:48 REP. NOONAN asked Ms. McCall to comment on whether YBGR is tracking outcomes. Ms. McCall said that the YBGR is in the second year of a national benchmarking project to gather and compare outcome data.

01:47:40 REP. NOONAN asked what outcome data is being gathered now by the CMHCs now and if the CMHCs would consider using an outcome-based model. Ms. McGowan said that the Addiction and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) of the Department of Public Health and Human Services requires only certain information to be tracked

and that the CMHCs would be open to the idea of using an outcome-based model, depending on the model.

01:49:19 REP. NOONAN thanked everyone for their comments and asked for continued input.

01:51:22 Ms. Deligdisch said that an outcome-based model should be designed in a way that does not create even bigger workloads for providers.

01:52:04 Ms. Lopez said that the focus should be on positive outcomes and the success of clients, rather than paperwork.

01:53:37 REP. NOONAN adjourned the meeting at 10:57 p.m.

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