

I. Modernizing Medicaid Waiver

The FY 2006 proposed budget includes several modifications of the state's Medicaid program that will require the approval of a section 1115 demonstration waiver by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

- Elimination of the three-month retroactive eligibility period prior to date of application.
- Freeze of enrollment for the nonmandatory 19- and 20-year-old population. This waiver would not remove any eligible beneficiaries, but would gradually phase out coverage of this optional group over two years.
- Limited benefits for the nonmandatory adult caregiver population, currently comprised of approximately 46,000 beneficiaries. The limited benefits would include an annual inpatient stay limit of 20 days, a \$10 co-payment for emergency department services, a limit of four prescriptions per month, and no coverage for speech pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy services, or chiropractic services. However, a portion of these beneficiaries may be eligible as low-income families and would maintain full Medicaid benefits.

You can review the draft waiver application content at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2943-114948--00.html>.

II. Great Start System Update

A description of **Michigan's Great Start System** is now available on www.greatstartforkids.org. A document titled *Great Start System Talking Points* is also posted on the website and highlights the vision, mission, system components, and system structure (Early Childhood Investment Corporation).

III. State Budget Update

A. Senate: The Senate is now reviewing the Governor's budget bill and the MDCH Subcommittee is taking testimony for the last time on Thursday, May 19th.

Senate Committee Appropriations: Community Health

Clerk Phone Number 373-7946

Location Rooms 402-403 Capitol Building, 100 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

Date Thursday, 5/19/2005

Time 2:30 PM

Agenda Mental Health Overview
Public Testimony

Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Community Health: Senators Stamas (C), George (VC), Johnson, Garcia, Cherry (MVC), and Clarke. For a list of contact information please go to www.senate.mi.gov

B. House: The DCH Subcommittee will rank Price of Government Health Priorities on Wed., May 18, 8:30 - 10:30 am, 351 House Approps Capitol Building.

The House is apparently looking at ways to restructure the Healthy Michigan Fund to find more opportunities for Medicaid Match. The Council encourages you to advocate that any restructuring of the Healthy Michigan Fund retain the focus on prevention, particularly in infant mortality, lead, chronic disease, obesity, and smoking prevention.

What can you do to advocate for Health and Prevention?

1. **Communicate** with legislators via mail, email, testimony, or in office visits. For a list of legislators, please go to www.house.mi.gov or www.senate.mi.gov.

2. **ASK:** *If the legislature supports results for evidence based programs, why does it continually cut and undermine prevention and safety net programs for children and families that support and accomplish these results??*

3. **MEET:** Set up meetings in the district with teams of advocates. The message is: We support you in finding revenue solutions to deal with our structural deficit. **(For more information on structural solutions please go to <http://www.milhs.org/Media/EDocs/HandoutOprFeb05.pdf>)**

IV. Upcoming conferences

A. Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Mackinac, June 7 and 8th. Email Michele for a conference brochure.

B. Michigan Health Policy Forum, May 23rd, 1:00 -3:00 pm, Kellogg Center

C. Out of Harm's Way: Preventing Toxic Threats to Child Development Thurs, Nov.3, UM Ann Arbor. For more information contact lauren@ecocenter.org