

**2010 Legislature - Operating Budget
Wordage Report - House Structure**

Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Gov Amd HSubCom

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department continues to aggressively pursue Medicaid cost containment initiatives. Efforts should continue where the Department believes additional cost containment is possible including further efforts to contain travel expenses. The Department must continue efforts imposing regulations controlling and materially reducing the cost of Personal Care Attendant (PCA) services. Efforts must be continued utilizing existing resources to impose regulations screening applicants for Residential Psychiatric Treatment Center (RPTC) services, especially for out-of-state services. The department must address the entire matrix of optional Medicaid services, reimbursement rates and eligibility requirements that are the basis of the Medicaid growth algorithm. This work is to utilize the results of the Medicaid Assessment and Planning analysis. The legislature requests that by January 2011 the Department be prepared to present projections of future Medicaid funding requirements under our existing statute and regulations and be prepared to present and evaluate the consequences of viable policy alternatives that could be implemented to lower growth rates and reducing projections of future costs.

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Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services eliminate the requirement for narrative and financial quarterly reports for all grant recipients whose grants are \$50,000 or less. This is an unnecessary burden and is not a requirement of the federal grants.

X

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services make a single 'upfront' payment for any grant award that is \$50,000 or less and includes a signature of the grantee certifying compliance with the terms of the grant with their approved application. Signature of the grantee would also certify that if a final report certifying completion of the grant requirements is not filed, future grants will not be considered for that grantee until all requirements of prior grants are completed satisfactorily. In the event a grantee is deemed ineligible for a future grant consideration due to improper filing of final reports, the grantee will be informed about the department's procedures for future consideration of grant eligibility. The department will establish procedures to consider retroactivity for specific grant consideration or express that the retroactivity cannot be considered for certain grants during the selection process.

X

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services continue the Medicaid Reform work to improve efficiency and slow the need for General Funds in the Medicaid program. Specifically, but not exclusively, the Department is to:
1) Complete the evaluation of possible changes to program design, determine waiver changes necessary to secure federal funding and report back to the First Session of the 27th Alaska Legislature on suggested changes, expected outcomes related to Medicaid sustainability, and

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resources needed to accomplish the work.

2) Develop and implement public provider reimbursement methodologies and payment rates that will further the goals of Medicaid Reform.

3) Continue and enhance the State and Tribal Medicaid work and partnership to enhance our ability to provide Medicaid services through Tribal Health Organizations.

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services continue and enhance its efforts to reduce fraud by both providers and beneficiaries of the Medicaid program.

Intent

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X

Ap: Alaska Pioneer Homes

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department maintain regulations requiring all residents of the Pioneer Homes to apply for all appropriate benefit programs prior to a state subsidy being provided for their care from the State Payment Assistance program.

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Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that all pioneers' homes and veterans' homes applicants shall complete any forms to determine eligibility for supplemental program funding, such as Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and other benefits as part of the application process. If an applicant is not able to complete the forms him/herself, or if relatives or guardians of the applicant are not able to complete the forms, Department of Health and Social Services staff may complete the forms for him/her, obtain the individuals' or designee's signature and submit for eligibility per AS 47.25.120.

X

Ap: Behavioral Health

AI: Behavioral Health Grants

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the department continue developing policies and procedures surrounding the awarding of recurring grants to assure that applicants are regularly evaluated on their performance in achieving outcomes consistent with the expectations and missions of the Department related to their specific grant. The recipient's specific performance should be measured and incorporated into the decision whether to continue awarding grants.

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Performance measurement should be standardized, accurate, objective and fair, recognizing and compensating for differences among grant recipients including acuity of services provided, client base, geographic location and other factors necessary and appropriate to reconcile and compare grant recipient performances across the array of providers and services involved.

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Ap: Health Care Services

AI: Adult Preventative Dental Medicaid Services

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Adult Preventative Dental Medicaid Services not over spend authority granted by authorizing statute and adjust benefits available to individual participants as necessary to maintain and conduct the program throughout the entire fiscal year.

X

Ap: Public Assistance

AI: Adult Public Assistance

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Interim Assistance cash payments be restricted to those individuals who agree to repay the State of Alaska in the event Supplementary Security Income (SSI) does not determine the individual eligible for cash assistance. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services make all attempts possible to recover the Interim Assistance cash payments in the event an individual is not SSI eligible after receiving Interim Assistance.

X

AI: Public Assistance Field Services

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that there shall be no fee agents engaged in activities within 50 road miles of any public assistance office.

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Ap: Senior and Disabilities Services

AI: General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that regulations related to the General Relief / Temporary Assisted Living program be reviewed and revised as needed to minimize the length of time that the state provides housing alternatives and assure the services are provided only to intended beneficiaries who are actually experiencing harm, abuse or neglect. The department should educate care coordinators and direct service providers about who should be referred and when they are correctly referred to the program in order that referring agents correctly match consumer needs with the program services intended by the department.

X

AI: Senior Community Based Grants

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that funding in the FY 2011 budget for Senior Community Based Grants be used to invest in successful home and community based supports provided by grantees who have demonstrated successful outcomes documented in accordance with the department's performance based evaluation procedures.

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Ap: Departmental Support Services

AI: Commissioner's Office

Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services complete the following tasks related to fiscal audits required in chapter 66, SLA 2003 of all Medicaid providers:

1. Develop regulations addressing the use of extrapolation methodology following an audit of Medicaid providers that clearly defines the difference between actual overpayment of funds to a provider and ministerial omission or clerical billing error that does not result in overpayment to the provider. The extrapolation methodology will also define percentage of 'safe harbor' overpayment rates for which extrapolation methodology will be applied.
2. Develop training standards and definitions regarding ministerial and billing errors versus overpayments. Include the use of those standards and definitions in the State's audit contracts. All audits initiated after the effective date of this intent and resulting in findings of overpayment will be calculated under the Department's new regulations governing overpayment standards and extrapolation methodology.

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Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the department develops a ten year funding source and use of funds projection for the entire department.

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Intent

It is the intent of the legislature that the department continue working on implementing a provider rate rebasing process and specific funding recommendations for both Medicaid and non-Medicaid providers to be completed and available to the legislature no later than December 15, 2010.

X