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# Legislative Report

## Idaho Academy of Family Physicians

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### Health and Welfare Reports

This week the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) heard the budget request from the Department of Health and Welfare. (DHW). The January 17<sup>th</sup> Statesman's headline captured the issue: "Numbers show Idahoans still struggling." Health and Welfare Director, Dick Armstrong stated that "Food stamps are a good barometer of what is happening in the economy and (with) poverty." Here are some of the main points of this week's presentation:

- 2013 Department of Health and Welfare appropriation Request (all funding sources) is \$2.1 Billion.
- Medicaid is \$1,978.3 million or 81.5% of the DHW budget.
- DHW's budget is 23% of all state general fund spending. Education is 61%.
- 16% of Idahoans receive food stamps.
- In November, 235,000 people in Idaho received food stamps, an increase of 380%.
- The Idaho Catastrophic Health Care fund that pays for indigent health care is expected to be \$40 million for state fiscal year (SFY) 2012 which ends in June, a 14% jump over fiscal year 2011.
- Director Armstrong recommended that Medicaid become a managed care model designed to improve access, coordination and improve outcomes.

### Medicaid Readiness for 2014

Director Armstrong has made several reports to the JFAC and germane committees on Medicaid's effort to be ready for health care reform. Here are some of the highlights:

- Medicaid coverage expands to low-income adults between 18-64 years-old on January 1, 2014.
- DHW is predicting more than 100,000 additional Idahoans will be eligible for Medicaid when the PPACA goes into effect in 2014. The Federal Government will cover the costs initially with the state match phasing in over 5 years. The DHW expects that with increased attention to the expanded eligibility criteria, there will be increased enrollment from individuals who are not on the Medicaid rolls.
- States are required to be able to do online eligibility determination in real-time.
- 75% of eligibility system codes must be modified.
- State is responsible for eligibility determinations and enrollment: funding and rules provided by CMS. The estimated cost over three years is \$34.8 million, which includes \$3.4 million in state general funds.
- Failure to meet CMS readiness deadlines may result in reduced the federal funding share for all Medicaid services.
- Medicaid is requesting \$1.2 million for ongoing system changes for ICD-10 & HIPAA to provide system changes and provider readiness.

### Medicaid Manage Care

Last year's HB 260 gave direction for Idaho Medicaid to develop a managed care program that "results in an accountable care system with improved health outcomes." Medicaid is working on the following:

- Studying what it would take to provide managed care to the following highest cost populations:
- Managed care contract for behavioral health services.
- Dual eligible for Medicare and Medicaid.
- Medical home development focused on chronic disease population.
- Complete actuarial analysis for all Medicaid plans. Report will be presented in February 2012.
- Web page developed-[www.MedicaidManagedCare.dhw.idaho.gov](http://www.MedicaidManagedCare.dhw.idaho.gov).
- A request for proposal for Medicaid Managed Care for behavioral health is expected to be out in February or March.

## Idaho Behavioral Health System

- The Division of Behavioral Health is requesting \$29.7 million for Psychiatric hospitalization, \$31 million for Regional mental health services, and 19.3 for substance abuse treatment. 69.6% of the funding comes from state general funds.
- Mental health general fund expenditure has decreased 22% from SFY 2008 through SFY 2010. It has since leveled off.
- The Division of Behavioral Health has identified their role as crisis psychiatric services; court ordered and committed clients, mental health court clients and those clients who meet the eligibility criteria without other benefits.
- The Behavioral Health Interagency Collaborative is discussing that regions and communities should be responsible for preventative and supportive care.
- Mental health holds have increased from 3,746 in SFY 2009 to 4,338 in SFY 2011.
- State Hospital South admission has risen from 253 in SFY 2008 to 490 in SFY 2011.
- State Hospital North admission has risen from 220 in SFY 2008 to 3336 in SFY 2011.

## Other News:

- The Tobacco Tax increase debates will begin soon. Plan to help influence your legislator by contacting them today to encourage them to support an increase of \$1.25
- The Office of Performance Evaluations released a statewide survey which shows that 87% of Idahoans favor a ban on texting and driving.

## This Week's Notable Quote

The Senate Health and Welfare Committee were discussing the recent Medicaid cuts for optometry service and glasses for adults when one Senator stated "Tell them to go to the dollar store and buy glasses, that's what I do."

You can find the full text and status of all legislation introduced in either the House or the Senate on the Legislative web page at

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2012/legIndex.htm>.

If you have questions regarding a piece of legislation or you would like the IAFP to monitor a specific legislative item that we aren't currently monitoring, please contact Neva Santos, IAFP Executive Director at [Idahoafp@aol.com](mailto:Idahoafp@aol.com) or (208) 323-1156.

## FAMILY MEDICINE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

*Dear Idaho Family Physicians,*

*I am writing today as the Idaho AAFP chapter champion for our national Family Medicine Political Action Committee and to ask you to consider making a donation for this election cycle.*

*FamMedPAC is the American Academy of Family Physicians' federal political action committee. Its purpose is to help elect candidates to the U.S. Congress who support AAFP's legislative goals and objectives. FamMedPAC will make direct contributions to candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Contribution decisions will be made in a nonpartisan way based on a candidate's positions, policies and voting records as they relate to family physicians and our patients.*

*Election laws prohibit the use of membership dues for donations to political candidates. Funds to be used for donations to candidates must be raised separately from your membership dues. Voluntary FamMedPAC donations are what will enhance your clout in federal elections and with elected members of Congress.*

*In the 2010 election cycle, FamMedPAC raised over \$700,000 and contributed over \$675,000 to candidates for federal office. 75% of the candidates we supported were victorious! The new Congress is hearing our message and we are in a strong position to fight for family medicine and our patients.*

*FamMedPAC is deeply involved in the 2012 elections, and has already contributed \$321,500 to 87 candidates and committees who are hitting the campaign trail. As you know, every contribution represents a face-to-face meeting with the candidate where we delivered our message loud and clear. Each meeting helps build the relationships that are so important to successfully moving the American Academy of Family Physicians' legislative agenda through Congress. Thanks to your support and the support of over 1,700 of your fellow AAFP members, FamMedPAC continues to act as a catalyst, boosting the effectiveness of our lobbying efforts and raising the visibility of the AAFP to new heights. FamMedPAC is growing into the largest and most influential healthcare PAC in the country, but we won't make it without your help.*

*In this 2011-2012 election cycle, 8 Idaho family physicians have contributed \$3795. This represents 1.81% of our membership. On average we have contributed \$475 on average (3rd highest in the nation). However, contributions of all sizes increase our influence in Washington DC. Remember - if every AAFP member contributed just \$100 per year, we would be the largest healthcare PAC in the nation!*

*If you have not yet renewed your commitment to FamMedPAC, please paste the link below to contribute on line.*

*FamMedPAC Donation -*

*<https://contribute.pacbuilder.com/contribution.aspx?X=2YkD5weXO8O1mwipqCP2OCMdiypTYy8HbUshK7OIiNs%3d>*

*Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you in the future to improve health care for all Americans.*

*Scott Dunn MD  
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IAFP FamMedPac chapter champion  
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