

**Health Care Reform Review Committee  
Representative George Keiser, Chairman  
September 4, 2013  
Updates from Department of Human Services**

**Eligibility System**

Department staff members are currently training county eligibility staff on the changes resulting from the Affordable Care Act. The eligibility system will be ready to accept applications for the Medicaid Expansion population in October and determinations will be made starting in mid-November.

**Information on Expansion**

The Department is preparing brochures, informational flyers, and public service announcements to ensure North Dakotans who are eligible for the Medicaid Expansion know how to apply for coverage. The Department is also collaborating with the Indian Affairs Commission to ensure eligible American Indians are aware of the expanded coverage.

**Medicaid Expansion**

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the coverage for the Medicaid Expansion was issued August 5, 2013. In the RFP, the Department indicated that the Sanford Health Plan (the commercial Health Maintenance Organization with the largest insured commercial, non-Medicaid enrollment in the state) would be the Benchmark selected for the Medicaid Expansion population. The coverage for the Medicaid Expansion population (known as the Alternative Benefit Plan) would be the Sanford Health Plan, plus the Essential Health Benefits, and any required Medicaid services (such as non-emergency medical

transportation). The Alternative Benefit Plan must also comply with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act.

According to final rules issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on July 15, 2013, individuals who are determined to be medically frail cannot be required to enroll in an Alternative Benefit Plan that does not contain all of the services under the State's Medicaid Program. Therefore, individuals who are determined to be medically frail will be given a choice of coverage.

Letters of intent are due from vendors who plan to submit a proposal by 12 noon on Friday, September 6, 2013. Proposals are due October 8, 2013. Coverage for the Medicaid Expansion population will begin January 1, 2014.