Department of Human Services
Human Services Committee
Representative Kathy Hogan, Chairman
January 6, 2016

Chairman Hogan, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Jodi Hulm, Administrator of the Healthy Steps Program within the Medical Services Division, for the Department of Human Services. In accordance with NDCC 50-29-02, I appear before you to provide an annual report on the enrollment statistics and costs associated with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) known in North Dakota as Healthy Steps.

Appropriation and Expenditures for 2015-2017

CHIP Appropriation	CHIP Expenditures Thru December 2015	% of Appropriation Used *
$20,474,924	$3,326,921	16.25%

*20.83% (5 months) of biennium has expired

Enrollment

As of December 2015, there were 2,523 premiums paid for children enrolled in CHIP; which is 67 more children than covered in December 2014.

As of October 1, 2013 North Dakota reached the current CHIP Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) minimum of 65% which remained at that level through September 30, 2015. Due to provisions in the Affordable Care Act, the State was eligible for an additional 23% Federal Match increasing the FMAP for CHIP to 88% for Federal Fiscal Year 2016.

External Quality Review

The Medical Services Division is responsible for the oversight of the Healthy Steps program and must monitor, evaluate, and improve the quality of care delivered to CHIP managed care enrollees. In its oversight role, DHS contracted with Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (Delmarva Foundation) to perform an annual independent external review. Delmarva Foundation completes the external quality review (EQR) assessment in accordance with requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (42 CFR § 438.358). Consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) EQR Protocols, Delmarva Foundation evaluates the quality of, accessibility to, and timeliness of services provided to Healthy Steps enrollees by assessing Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND) and Delta Dental of Minnesota performance through the following EQR activities:

- Performance Improvement Project (PIP) Validation
- Performance Measure Validation (PMV)
- Compliance Review (CR)

The EQR activities, conducted in 2015, focused on compliance and quality initiatives in place for the measurement year (MY) 2014, which was January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014. The assessment provides an accurate and objective portrait of BCBSND and Delta Dental capabilities which can be used to promote accountability, improve important aspects of organizational achievement, and positively impact the quality of services provided to enrollees. Through annual EQRs, Delmarva makes recommendations that, if implemented, will positively impact the care provided to the Healthy Steps enrollees.

BCBSND has demonstrated significant improvement in compliance and quality over the last several years. Due to achieving sustained improvement and exceeding the national average benchmark in MY 2013, they were able to close the Adolescent Immunizations PIP. Subsequently,

BCBSND initiated a new PIP that focuses on Well Care Visits for enrollees 12-18 Years of Age; BCBSND has significant opportunity for improvement in this indicator. BCBSND will continue their efforts to improve results in Well-Child Visits in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Years of Life PIP; in MY 2014, BCBSND achieved a statistically significant 17 percentage point improvement compared to MY 2013.

The focused CR assessment revealed full compliance with areas under review. All elements and components that were partially met in the MY 2013 review were assessed as met during MY 2014 review. The Healthy Steps Member Satisfaction Survey results also revealed that, in general, members (or parents) are satisfied with the Healthy Steps program and the care received.

Delta Dental successfully developed its Preventive Dental Services PIP and is currently implementing interventions to positively impact MY 2015. The baseline rate for the PIP measure was noted to exceed the national 75th percentile benchmark. The dental plan was found to be compliant with performance measure specifications and its rates. In regard to the CR, Delta Dental has demonstrated improvement. Most member materials and policies and procedures were revised to reflect requirements based on the recommendations made for the MY 2013 audit. However, the dental plan still has several opportunities for improvement in this area. In regard to quality, Delta Dental needs to identify specific measurable goals in its work plan and program evaluation. The evaluation should also include results of all assessments and identify areas that may need intervention or corrective action.

This concludes my update, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.