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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

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Stacie Weeks,
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Notice of Meeting to Solicit Public Comments and Intent to Act Upon Amendments to the State Plan for Medicaid Services

Public Hearing February 25, 2025 Summary

Date and Time of Meeting: February 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM

Name of Organization: State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)

Place of Meeting: Department of Public and Behavioral Health
4150 Technology Way, Room 301
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Teleconference and/or Microsoft Teams Attendees

(Note: This List May Not Include All Participants, Just Those Who Identified Themselves)

Casey Angres, DHCFP	Patricia Schille, DHCFP
Lauren M. Driscoll, Deputy Attorney General (DAG)	Antonio Brown, DHCFP
Theresa Carsten, DHCFP	Kerisa Weaver, DHCFP
Marcel Brown, DHCFP	Dr. Marcia Tinberg, DHCFP
Charmaine Yeates, DHCFP	Serene Pack, DHCFP
Kirsten Coulombe, DHCFP	Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, DHCFP
Christina Cobeo, DHCFP	Heather Koehler, Division of Welfare and Social Services (DWSS)
Krisann Taylor, DHCFP	Mark Du, DHCFP
Nancy Brooks, Clark County School District (CCSD)	Shelly Mirato, Desert Winds Hospital
Alyssa Drucker, Gainwell Technologies (GWT)	Julie Peterson, Accessible Space
Gingi Robinson, DHCFP	Kimberly Smalley, DHCFP
Amy Levin, Anthem	Vincenzo Variale, Prime HealthCare
Lindsey Bondiek, DHCFP	JC Flowers, Nevada Rural Health Center (NVRHC)
Rebekah Graham, Rite of Passage (ROP)	Rhett Hollon, DHCFP
Noel Lopez, DHCFP,	Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation (NPHF)
Joleen Walker, DHCFP	Jonathan Figueroa, DHCFP
Jennifer Frischmann,	Lisa Glick, Fidelis-Rx
(DWSS)	Todd Rich, DHCFP
Karen Stoycoff, DWSS	
Shawna Derosse, United Healthcare (UHC)	

Lori Follett DHCFP
Lambert Wu A., United Healthcare (UHC)
Mandy Coscart, DHCFP
Seth Wray, UHC
Janine A. Sala, UHC
Shaneka L. Wiley, Elevance Health
Nicholas Hollister, Molina Healthcare
Angela Bryant, Transitions Services
Sara Knight, DHCFP
Monica Schiffer, DHCFP
Katie Pfister, Aging and Disability Services
Division, (ADSD)
Melissa Pagarigan
Angi Nasso
Erin Lynch, Nevada Hospital Association (NVHA)
Tashanae Glass
Tiffany
Dana
Angela Stewart, Elevance Health
De Yates
Angelo Alford, Anthem
Philip Ramirez, Molina Healthcare
Veronica Bean, DHCFP
Evette Cullen, DHCFP
Allyson Hoover, Silver Summit Health Plan (SSHP)
Kristen Wall, Molina Healthcare
Lucille Wroldsen, DHCFP
Elizabeth Scott, DHCFP
Sandra Stone, Division of Child and Family
Services (DCFS)
Nima Alinejad, Molina Healthcare
Jason Drake
Pablo Munoz, DHCFP
Mageena Tom, LCSW
Daniella Boris CCSD
Deanna Torres, Community Counseling Center
Shelly Bengé-Reynolds, DHCFP
Mollie Colon

Deborah Jordan, DHCFP
Brandon Ford, Best Practices NV, LLC
Alicia Hines, Clark County Nevada
Rachel E. Rosensteel, UHC
Mark D. Peterson, UHC
Deidre Manley, DHCFP
Michelle Joy, Carson Tahoe Health
Kaelyne Day, DHCFP
Ellen Flowers, DHCFP
Bernadette DeMars, DHCFP
April Caughron DHCFP
Shadi A. Ahmed, Carelon
Sevil Monge, DHCFP
Kendra Edwards, American Heart Association
Casey
Lisa Dyer, DHCFP
Darlene Wolff, DHCFP
Robin Ochenschlager, DHCFP
Jaimie Evins, DHCFP
Barbara A. Scaturro, Centene
Laurie Curfman, Liberty Dental Plan (LIB)
Susan Harrison, GWT
Christopher Aquinde, DHCFP
Amber Neff, DHCFP
Rianna White, Fidelis-Rx
Patricia Beck-Weaver, DHCFP
Alicia Roman, DHCFP
Maria Reyes, Fidelis-Rx
Maria R
Sarah Paulsen, Carelon
Tara Burfoot, DHCFP
Elizabeth Augustine, DWSS
Diana F. Marchetti, DWSS
Niani Cooper, DWSS
Melody Hall-Ramirez, DHCFP
Lenamarie Alaimo, DWSS

Introduction:

Casey Angres, Chief of Division Compliance, DHCFP, opened the Public Hearing introducing herself, Theresa Carsten, Deputy Administrator, DHCFP, and Lauren M. Driscoll, DAG.

Casey Angres – The notice for this public hearing was published on January 23, 2025, in accordance with Nevada Statute 422.2369.

1. Public Comments: There were none.

2. Discussion of Amendments to the State Plan for Medicaid Services and Solicitation of Public Comments

Subject: Increase in Federal Poverty Level for Pregnant Women to 200%

Heather Koehler Social Services Program Specialist III, DWSS presented that Assembly Bill (AB) 432/Senate Bill (SB) 420 in the 2021 Legislative Session mandated Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women increase the allowable income limit from the current 165% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to a maximum income of 200% FPL. This increase will expand the number of women who could qualify for Medicaid during their pregnancy.

The following Provider Types (PT) will potentially be affected by this change. Those PTs include, but are not limited to, the PTs listed on the agenda.

There is an estimated increase in annual aggregate expenditures for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2026 and 2027:

SFY 2026:	\$2,078,342
SFY 2027:	\$2,193,493

The effective date of change is July 1, 2025.

Public Comments:

JC Flowers advised when looking at the PTs, he did not see Federally Qualified Health Care (FQHC) centers and inquired if that is intentional or is that something that is missing.

Heather Koehler answered she will follow up offline with an answer.

JC Flowers replied that he did see Indian Health Services (IHS) but not FQHCs.

Casey Angres asked JC Flowers to email his contact information to Document Control at documentcontrol@dncfp.nv.gov which is listed on the agenda.

3. Discussion of Amendments to the State Plan for Medicaid Services and Solicitation of Public Comments

Subject: Psychiatric Hospital Rate Parity

Patricia Schille, Management Analyst, Rates Analysis and Development Unit, DHCFP, presented the State Plan for Medicaid Services Rate Change for Freestanding Psychiatric Hospitals (PT 13) to a flat statewide per diem rate to be in parity with the Nevada General Acute Hospitals providing psychiatric services. DHCFP intends to submit a Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) in order to provide a rate change to Freestanding Psychiatric Hospitals to a flat statewide per diem rate to be in parity with the Nevada General Acute Hospitals providing psychiatric services. The flat statewide per diem rate will be \$944.00.

There is an estimated increase in annual aggregate expenditures for SFYs 2026 and 2027:

SFY 2026:	\$5,651,252
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SFY 2027: \$5,687,684

The effective date is April 1, 2025.

The change is a result of the commitment to enhance access to high-quality psychiatric care and support the sustainability of our healthcare providers. The change to the fee schedule will be the change to the per diem of \$944

Public Comments:

Vincenzo Variale, CEO of North Vista Hospital, mentioned that freestanding does provide a vital concern; however, he raised a concern that there used to be four general hospitals in Las Vegas to provide psychiatric care but there are only three now and general hospitals have not had a rate increase in 11 years. General hospitals provide a higher level of care (LOC). When there is a medical problem with a psychiatric patient, the freestanding refers the psychiatric patients to the general hospitals where they provide 24-hour medical attention. Variale stated that he meant no disrespect to freestanding but he used to manage freestanding; he said it was four walls and a bed with a nurse walking up with pills in a cup. He raised the concern that freestanding would be getting paid the same rate he gets and mentioned that his costs in 11 years have gone up immensely. During COVID, his hospital was the only one that took care of psychiatric patients who had COVID. Due to the medical complexity of the patients' needs, freestanding would not provide that care. Variale asked if Medicaid was going to raise the general hospital rates to the \$944 because he provides full medical attention as well as psychiatric needs. He emphasized the fact that general hospitals need a rate increase because in 11 years, their costs have gone up exponentially.

Casey Angres thanked Vincenzo Variale for his comments and advised him to send his contact information to the document control email inbox for someone to reach out to further discuss this with him.

Casey Angres - Closed the Public Hearing for changes to Psychiatric Hospital Rate Parity.

4. Adjournment

There were no further comments, and Casey Angres closed the Public Hearing at 10:10 AM.

****A video version of this meeting is available through the DHCFP Compliance office. For more detailed information on any of the handouts, submittals, testimony and or comments please contact Jenifer Graham at documentcontrol@dncfp.nv.gov with any questions.***