

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2023 Interim

July 19, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Health and Family Services was held on July 19, 2023, at 10:30 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Donald Douglas, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Donald Douglas, Co-Chair; Representative Danny Bentley, Co-Chair; Representative Samara Heavrin, Senator Karen Berg, Representative Adam Bowling, Representative Josie Raymond, and Representative Lisa Willner.

Guests: Eric Friedlander, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Lisa Lee, Commissioner, Department for Medicaid Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

LRC Staff: Miriam Fordham, Kevin Newton, and Jennifer Luttrell.

Status Update on Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers

Secretary Friedlander and Commissioner Lee provided an update on Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers.

In response to questions from Senator Berg, Commissioner Lee noted that Michelle P waiver services are utilized for those who would typically qualify for long term care facility services. Michelle P waivers cover services that no traditional insurance plan would cover. Commissioner Lee stated that some children receiving Michelle P waiver services also have private insurance, while the waiver provides wrap around support for the services that private insurance will not cover.

In response to a question from Representative Bentley, Secretary Friedlander noted that rural providers would receive higher payments if Medicaid rates were adjusted to the Medicare rates.

In response to questions from Representative Heavrin, Commissioner Lee stated that therapy services will be accessed in the same way even though they are moving from waiver services to the state Medicaid plan. Secretary Friedlander said that the waiver rate study would likely be submitted with the Cabinet's budget request submission.

In response to a question from Representative Willner, Commissioner Lee said that the Severe Mental Illness waiver had been submitted to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.