

MOHealthNet Oversight Committee Resolution on Medicaid Expansion

Whereas the State of Missouri has the opportunity to provide an expansion of coverage to Medicaid for newly-eligible adults up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level by exercising a new coverage option made available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010;

Whereas the ACA creates an opportunity for Missouri to maximize the federal drawdown of funds for the MOHealthNET program, given that the federal government will fully fund the expansion for the first three years from 2014-17, and no less than 90% of the costs beyond 2017;

Whereas this opportunity is projected to lead to more than 260,000 adults newly-covered by Medicaid and thus able to access preventive and therapeutic health care services, improving health outcomes, social and behavioral outcomes, and the use of evidence-based medicine and best practices in health improvement plans beginning in 2014;

Whereas medical care providers will experience significant payment reductions from Medicare and Medicaid over the next several years, resulting from federal reductions in the disproportionate share program and other already enacted policies that if not offset will likely result in reduced hospital services, job losses, and a reduction in community investment;

Whereas the failure to enact an expansion of Medicaid eligibility which would ensure access to improved medical care benefits for low income Missourians, the majority of whom are working and without access to affordable employer-sponsored insurance, will be a detriment to health, social and behavioral outcomes for these persons, as well as the economic health of their communities, limiting the economic development potential for the entire State of Missouri;

Resolved, the MOHealthNET Oversight Committee hereby reports this resolution to the Missouri General Assembly and the Governor of Missouri, pursuant to the authorizing legislation for the committee, SB577 and Section 208.955.1, and goes on record in support of reform and expansion of Medicaid to raise eligibility levels up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level for all newly-eligible adults, strongly encouraging the Missouri General Assembly and the Governor to pass and sign enabling legislation in the 2013 Session for this purpose.

The MOHealthNET Oversight Committee declares this resolution and orders it delivered on April 9, 2013 to the Speaker of the House, President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Governor of the State of Missouri, the Minority Leader of the House, and the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate.

Delivered by Dr. Timothy D. McBride, PhD., Chair of the MOHealthNET Oversight Committee, on behalf of the committee. Phone: (314)941-0926. Email: mcbriedtd@gmail.com

Website for MOHealthNET Oversight Committee: <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/oversight/>