

July 30, 2014

Tim McBride, PhD
Chair, MO HealthNet Oversight Committee
Brown School, Washington University
Campus Box 1196, One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899

RE: MO HealthNet Oversight Committee Meeting on July 31, 2014

Dear Dr. McBride:

I will be attending the MO HealthNet Oversight Committee meeting Thursday, July 31, and noticed the agenda includes a discussion on MO HealthNet enrollment and the MEDES rollout. I wanted to share the Missouri Hospital Association's perspective on these issues.

The Medicaid enrollment issues have been widespread since the beginning of the year. In what could possibly be best described as a perfect storm, the state implemented a new automated Medicaid enrollment system (MEDES), reorganized the county office structure and began exchanging data with the new federally-facilitated marketplace.

Hospitals have been vocal in describing the problems and the resulting effects on patient care and provider reimbursement. In March, MHA President and CEO Herb Kuhn sent a [letter](#) of concern to Brian Kinkade at the Missouri Department of Social Services. In June, Mr. Kuhn shared his thoughts with MHA members in his weekly *MHA Today* [column](#).

The Missouri Department of Social Services has provided various materials to help hospitals through this difficult transition, and MHA has posted these [materials](#) on its website. It is our sense that the current application process is working better. And, the state is steadily working down the backlog. The department has created an email address for hospitals to use in identifying case-specific issues and sponsored several webinars for hospitals to share issues and learn about system enhancements. MHA appreciates these efforts and respects the responsiveness demonstrated by the state.

We know the state is working diligently to fix the MEDES system issues, and we hope for a timely resolution. However, the MEDES is not yet fully functional. Until the "bugs" are completely eliminated from the MEDES system, our members are worried about expanding the system to additional client groups.

We thank the oversight committee for its interest in this topic and ask that all parties work in a transparent way to keep current problems and future progress open to all stakeholders interested in the success of the system.

Sincerely,



Steve Renne
Vice President of Children's Health and Medicaid Advocacy

sr/jk