

**Iowa Department of Human Services
Testimony on the Health Care Reform Bill
Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee
January 23, 2007**

Division II / Section 4 – Medicaid Expansion for Parents:

- Provides Medicaid to parents of children who are eligible for Medicaid and whose family income (assumed to be gross, before deductions) is at or below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
 - Over half of the parents of children who receive Medicaid are not eligible for Medicaid.
 - Children can get Medicaid if their family's net countable income (after deductions) is less than 133% of the federal poverty level. Infants (under age 1) qualify if the family's countable income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
 - However, parents of children can only get Medicaid if their net countable income is below 29% of FPL. In simple terms, if one parent earns more than \$5.79 per hour working full time, the household is over income for the parents to qualify for Medicaid.
 - As illustrated by the chart, Medicaid income guidelines are very complex with different income guidelines and limits for different populations.

Division II / Section 8 – Bright Futures:

- Mandates *hawk-i* providers use Bright Futures. Bright Futures are provider guidelines using a series of age-appropriate questions and communication techniques that address the physical, emotional, and social well-being of children, adolescents, and their families.
- It also encourages a medical home, which is a primary provider from which a child should always receive their care even if their health insurance plan changes.
 - The current contracts with participating health plans in the *hawk-i* program require providers to follow well-child visit schedules according to the "Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Care" established by the American Academy of Pediatrics or the 'Guide to Clinical Preventive Services' established by the U.S. Preventive Task Force.
 - These guidelines are accepted industry standards and not necessarily specific to the *hawk-i* program.
- Need to better understand what use of Bright Futures is trying to accomplish and how it would be more beneficial from what the program is currently doing.

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