

Good evening!

Attached please find the comment provided for tomorrow's Health Policy Oversight Committee meeting re: Medicaid Managed Care.

We appreciate the time and consideration of all the legislators who serve on this committee. Please do not hesitate to follow up with me directly on any of the points made in this attachment.

Respectfully submitted,

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**IPHA is the voice of public health in Iowa through advocacy, membership services and partnerships.**

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# IOWA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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11/2/2015

**To:** Health Policy Oversight Committee  
**From:** Iowa Public Health Association  
**cc:** Patty Funaro, IPHA Board of Directors and Membership

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment during the 11.03.15 meeting of the Health Policy Oversight Committee.

Since the release of the request for proposal by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), to move Iowa toward a risk-based managed care approach for Iowa's Medicaid program, members and stakeholders of the Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) have noted the obligation under the RFP for MCOs to enter into a contract with local public health. IPHA has sought to answer: *What does this mean for Iowa's public health system? How can local public health departments leverage this transformation to improve population health?*

To that end, we have hosted a series of webinars for Iowa's public health and safety net providers since September in an attempt to:

- Provide a venue for DHS and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to provide updates and respond to questions;
- Present legal technical assistance to public health providers re: the contract templates circulating from MCOs;
- Offer a venue for MCOs to be introduced to public health providers, the array of Medicaid services they provide and to respond to questions from public health.

**Mission:**

IPHA is the voice for public health in Iowa

In the course of IPHA's educational outreach to our members, stakeholders, state agency partners and the MCOs, some common themes persist as captured in the post-webinar evaluation data. Primary sources of frustration on the part of public health providers include:

**Vision:**

Advancing public health in Iowa

- Implementation time table that is too aggressive to be reasonable and the conflicting deadlines (e.g., requirement by MCOs to sign provider contracts prior to DHS approval of those contracts);
- Delay in access to provider manuals, first from DHS and then from the MCOs;
- Lack of consideration as to how MCOs will work with public health and

Title V projects;

- Desire for state-level oversight to ensure that a minimum set of standards of care and quality are met; and
- Specific logistical concerns re: reimbursement rates, medical records, credentialing, and standardization of processes across all MCOs.

Public health in Iowa is constantly challenged and evolving, so in some regards this transition to managed care is yet another stressor on Iowa's state and 101 local public health departments. Still major transformations in the health system (e.g., Affordable Care Act, Medicaid managed care, integrated approaches to prevention and primary care) have afforded both challenges and opportunities for Iowa's public health.

By and large, Iowa public health providers are seeking to find and maximize the **opportunities** that Medicaid managed care could present. Local public health is well positioned to assist in connecting individuals and communities to the emerging health care delivery models. For example, local public health agencies have created and implemented models for care coordination that have been successful in their regions. It would behoove the MCOs to support such existing, successful care coordination rather than to supplant it.

However, quite candidly, at this time the concerns expressed by public health providers overshadow the optimism that Medicaid managed care could potentially improve population health.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the Committee's work.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeneane Moody, MPH  
Executive Director  
Iowa Public Health Association

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#### About IPHA

Since 1925, IPHA has improved the health of Iowa's people by:

- Supporting public health professionals in ways that help them do their jobs better;
- Fostering understanding, engagement and support for public health issues; and
- Influencing public policy to improve health.

Public health is fundamental to every sector. Healthy kids are better prepared to learn; a healthy workforce is more productive; and healthy communities thrive.