

It is my understanding that the oversight committee is meeting today. I have some comments that I would like to express concerning the fast track of the implementation of the privatization of Medicaid. In the Des Moines Register it is stated that "no state employees will lose their jobs". Well, there are a number of County employed case managers that ARE losing their jobs that have been working with the disabled and elderly population for years and built relationships and understand their NEEDS. This movement is happening way too fast and there has not been proper notice given to the thousands of individuals that reside in the rural areas, many of whom that do not have computers or access to the internet. There has been no information to provide to them of public meetings, enrollment meetings, etc... Many of these individuals will not know there have been a change until sometime next year they need to go to the doctor or hospital and are told they are not covered by insurance or they do not accept the insurance company they were auto assigned to. What happens to these individuals? I also am concerned that CMS has not yet approved this going forward and I hope that this does not happen. I am also concerned that these are for-profit companies and will not have the best interest of the disabled, elderly and poor. Also, there have been a lot of providers that have not signed up with the MCO's as their contracts concerning rates have been left blank. I realize that they are to continue using the same rates for two years, however, what happens after that. I know that there are smaller doctor, specialist offices, etc.. that are not going to sign up as they fear they will be out of business within a few years as the reimbursement is so low already. How can the individuals of our state make informed decisions on which company to go with if there are no providers signed up with the companies, and to do this within the next two months is ridiculous.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope that your decisions are not based on "the word" of others but the realities of how this is going to affect the residents of our state.

Thank you,

Renee Pape