

# Medical Home Telephone Conference

## June 29, 2004

### Medicaid D Program and Eligibility

Guest Speaker: Laura Spruell, Medicaid Specialist with CSHCN/Department of Workforce Services.

In the state of Utah, applying for SSI (Social Security) is not the same as applying for Medicaid. The disability Medicaid program determines disability based on SSI criteria. Disability Medicaid pays for medical bills while SSI provides some money. Medicaid is run by the state whereas SSI is run by the federal government. You can apply for Medicaid without applying for SSI. Laura encourages people to apply for both. Family Medicaid is based on poverty level. With Disability Medicaid, the factors change on how income and assets are counted, Medicaid gives more deductions from income than SSI does. If there is more than one disabled person in the household, the amount of income allowed is increased.

Disability Medicaid exempts assets that other programs do not. If a family has more than one car, one is exempt because it's needed for the medical transportation a disabled child. A Home is needed, so it is exempt. Retirement funds for parents are not countable for a disabled child. It's important to remember that a family can still get Medicaid even if they have health insurance.

Medicaid looks at age related functions due to global developmental issues, autism, mental health issues, and physical impairments. Some children may need occupational therapy, physical therapy, prescriptions, and speech therapy for Autism - Medicaid will pay for these. Another benefit to the parent is that if a provider accepts them as a Medicaid patient, the provider must accept what Medicaid pays them. Therefore the parent would have no co-pay.

The Review Board determines the eligibility of child. The Review Board consists of the Department of Health, three medical examiners and two part-time doctors. There are a variety of records that are useful in determining the child's disability, such as growth charts – failure to thrive or developmental problems. If the child has been hospitalized, get discharge summaries because they have an overall view of the hospitalization and treatment. Other records that are useful are individual educational plans, mental health records. A written report that covers how child isn't functioning at age related function. As physicians, providing any testing results helps to facilitate the process. Physicians can provide lab results, physical therapy evaluation, anything that will show the child's limitations.

An important point to remember when filling out the Medicaid application for Disability Medicaid is to mark the Disability box. Also since a Case manager may not handle disability very often or recognize it, it's in the family's best interest for the parent to say "my

child may have a disability.” Some families may be denied Medicaid because they are not eligible for family Medicaid but would have qualified for Disability Medicaid.

For those families who not speak English, there are many Spanish speaking case managers, as well as other languages The languages represented are Laotian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, German, French and Tongan. Medicaid pays for an interpretation line for interviews. This includes interpretation for deaf child. It's important to arrange a head of time so that an approved translation services will be available for the appointment with family and child. Spanish applications for Medicaid are available.

When filling out Medicaid application, you are applying for medical assistance, important to indicate that there is a disability. The Caseworkers are responsible to get best program for family and look at every possible program for every person in household.

While the Disability Medicaid eligibility process takes time, when the application is accepted, they can make it retroactive for three months back.

Next phone call is July 27, 2004 – Ming Wang from Human Services talk about mental health services for children around the state.

Attendees: Grace, Wendy, Bob Terashima, Darlene, Kathy Hefron, Melissa, Amy, Darlene, Gindra, Lisa Samson-Fang, Barbara Ward, Gina Pola-Money.