



## Select Committee on Efficiency in Government

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### 62nd Montana Legislature

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Feb. 16, 2012

Anna Whiting Sorrell, Director  
Department of Public Health and Human Services  
111 N. Sanders  
Helena, MT 59604-4210

Dear Ms. Whiting Sorrell:

On behalf of the Select Committee on Efficiency in Government, I'm writing to ask that the Department of Public Health and Human Services work with its provider networks to develop a Medicaid reimbursement model based on the measurement and reporting of specifically described outcomes. The Committee voted on Feb. 7 to make this request.

The Committee also requested that the Department pilot this effort through the Developmental Services Division, with an emphasis on the Children's Mental Health Bureau. However, the activities should not be limited solely to children's mental health.

The Committee is asking that the Department work with providers to articulate, in a measurable form, specifically what it will accomplish in the following three areas:

- the use of validated tools to assess and measure the fidelity of Medicaid state plan services to a wraparound philosophy of care;
- the use of validated measures to evaluate the acuity of the children served, to assess family functioning and family skill strengths and deficits, and to measure what, if any, improvements the services that are provided make in the areas of acuity, family functioning, and family skill strengths and deficits; and
- the tracking of a child's placement, with a goal of creating incentives for providing community-based treatment and reducing the current reliance on the unnecessarily high use and expense of out-of-state, psychiatric residential treatment facility, and group home placements.

The Committee believes that working on these activities and moving to an outcome-based model for providing Medicaid mental health services will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided through the Medicaid program.

The Committee will meet next on March 1-2. We hope you can provide staff member Sue O'Connell with a response by Feb. 28 that indicates whether you will be able to work with providers on these matters during the remainder of this interim.

If you are able to do so, the Committee would appreciate hearing an update on your activities at its final meeting on Sept. 10, 2012.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sen. Jon Sonju  
Presiding Officer

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